

U.N. to resume debate on Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council agreed to resume debate on Friday on Lebanon's charges of Israeli acts of aggression in southern Lebanon and was expected to approve a toned-down resolution. Diplomatic sources said a revised text would deplore acts of aggression and speak instead of acts of violence, in the hope that the United States would not exercise its right of veto and that the resolution would command broader support. The sources said that instead of condemning the Israeli actions, as was proposed in a text offered by Lebanon on Monday, the council would be asked to state that it deeply deplored the incidents. The council has held two meetings on the question. A further session scheduled for Tuesday was cancelled in light of the new turmoil in Beirut. The following day, a U.N. spokesman said the debate had been postponed until further notice.

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Murphy heads for Mideast

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government's special Middle East envoy left on Friday for talks with Middle East leaders on reviving the flagging peace process, officials said. The officials did not deny a report from Cairo that Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy was to meet King Hussein in London. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said Mr. Murphy had left Washington for meetings with regional leaders, but he refused to discuss his itinerary for security reasons. Kalb said the United States would be working with the parties to achieve an "international context that meets the political needs of those involved and leads to direct negotiations." Kalb repeated the U.S. position that if Moscow wished to play a larger role in the Middle East peace process, "it should demonstrate by its actions a willingness to be constructive."

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King meets British premier

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met here on Thursday with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The meeting, attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifi and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, discussed the developments of the situation in the Middle East region as well as bilateral relations.

Israel jails 3 Gaza citizens

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An Israeli military court has sentenced three Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip to jail terms ranging from four to 10 years for anti-Israel acts. The court sentenced Rashid Abu Zirr, 18, to 10 years in prison. Ziad Abdul Kader Barakat, 24, was sentenced to nine years in prison and Hussein Alzari, 31, was sentenced to four years in prison, the sources said.

3 Spanish embassy officials kidnapped

BEIRUT (R) — Three Spanish embassy officials were kidnapped by unknown gunmen near Beirut airport on Friday, a Spanish source said. Security sources said the three officials, one Spanish and two Lebanese, were seized shortly after arriving at the airport. The kidnappers came hours after Spain established full diplomatic relations with Israel at a meeting in The Hague.

Israelis plan to close Jericho hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities plan to close down the orthopaedic and surgery section at Jericho Hospital in the occupied West Bank as of April. A total of 25,000 people benefit from the services of the section which operates two days a week. The closure by the Israeli authorities of this section will oblige the beneficiaries to go to Beit Jala and Ramallah hospitals and other private hospitals.

Mubarak visits Bonn this week

BONN (AR) — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt will visit West Germany at the end of this month, shortly after Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel, government sources said Friday. The semi-official "Cairo" newspaper "Al-Ahram" said Friday Mr. Mubarak will visit Bonn Jan. 20-21 after addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Bonn government sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed the visit but declined to provide details.

Reagan hospitalized for check-up

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan entered hospital on Friday for an examination to determine his progress since the removal of a cancerous growth from his colon last July. Mr. Reagan waved, grinned and signed autographs for White House visitors before he and his wife Nancy boarded a helicopter for the short flight to the Bethesda Naval Hospital in a Washington suburb.

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Gemayel loyalists retake strongholds

Leftists keep up assault; fears grow of all-out civil war but Falangists seek to pacify Syria

Combined agency dispatches

BEIRUT — Fierce clashes continued in the Christian heartland of Lebanon on Friday as leftist militiamen kept up their assaults on positions held by army troops and fighters loyal to President Amin Gemayel after the overthrow on Wednesday of a militia leader who signed a Syrian-sponsored peace accord.

The continuing violence also sparked fears of a new all-out civil war but the Falange Party, the main Christian political group, appeared to be trying to limit the damage caused by its opposition to the Syrian-backed peace accord.

The Associated Press said Gemayel loyalists and army troops recaptured key crossroads on the northern and eastern flanks of the Christian heartland in a tank-

led counter-attack on the leftists. Police said 21 people were killed and 56 wounded in the night-long counter-offensive in the central mountains above Mr. Gemayel's hometown of Bikfaya and the northern Baatoun region near the ancient port city of Tybous.

Geagea calls for talks with leftists

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rightist militia leaders appealed for dialogue with leftists on Friday as pro-Syrian forces raked President Amin Gemayel's mountain village with rocket fire.

Army tanks fired back into Syrian-held territory as the 122-mm rockets rained over the town. Gemayel's large residence in Bikfaya about 20 kilometers from Beirut.

Mr. Geagea said he was not a member of the first time since he led by hardline chief of staff Samir Geagea joined Gemayel loyalists to defeat former militia leader Elie Hobeika.

In a statement, Mr. Geagea and his colleagues said they sought "a national solution for the Lebanese crisis with the help of Syria," and called on their leftist foes for "a dialogue aimed at achieving full national reconciliation."

Heavy fights continue in Aden; multinational exodus planned

DIJIBOUTI (Agencies) — The Soviet Union and West European states plan to evacuate their citizens from Aden, where heavy fighting between rival groups was reported for a fifth consecutive day.

Djibouti Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah told reporters Soviet Ambassador Victor Perishkin had asked him to help in the transit of Soviet nationals to be brought out by sea across the 200-mile wide Bab Al Mandab strait.

Mr. Farah said this meant the situation in the South Yemen capital was deteriorating. In Moscow, Western diplomatic sources quoted officials as saying the Soviet embassy in Aden hopes to arrange at least a brief ceasefire so that it can evacuate families of staff.

A British embassy official in Moscow said the Soviet Union was also trying to help arrange the departure of British and French

nationals. In Bonn, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said West Germany had asked Britain and the Soviet Union to help the urgent evacuation of its citizens.

The Moscow sources told Reuters Soviet authorities had reported the breakdown of peace talks which started on Thursday between President Ali Nasser Mohammad and hard-line pro-Soviet rebels.

Gulf-based Arab and Western diplomatic sources told the AP tank battles were raging Friday in Aden, and fighting was spreading to tribal regions in South Yemen.

Arab diplomatic sources in Sana'a, North Yemen, said that more than 300 rebels have been rounded up by forces loyal to President Mohammad.

These sources told the AP that despite the fighting the situation could settle in favour of the government. They quoted unidentified officials as saying that

telephone and telex links between South Yemen and the rest of the world, interrupted since Monday, were to be restored within the next 48 hours.

The airport, scene of intermittent fighting during the past five days, would also be reopened shortly.

The South Yemeni health minister, Abdullah Bakir, said in Sana'a that the "legitimate authority is in control and now mopping up small pockets" of rebels in Aden.

Mr. Bakir, who crossed the border into North Yemen Thursday night, was quoted by the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad as saying that President Mohammad was "personally directing all political and military action, after the conspiracy was crushed."

Mr. Bakir, it said without elaborating, delivered a written mes-

Summit is contingent, Mubarak tells Peres

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Friday that a date for a summit meeting between them depended on progress in negotiating terms for arbitrating a border dispute, Israeli officials said.

The Egyptian charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv, Mohammed Bassiouni, acting as Mr. Mubarak's envoy, met Peres and gave him the message.

The territorial dispute is over Taba, a tiny coastal enclave on the Gulf of Aqaba occupied by Israel in 1967.

Mr. Bassiouni on Friday returned from Cairo, where he had gone to consult Mr. Mubarak after the Israeli cabinet agreed to submit the Taba dispute to arbitration.

Mr. Mubarak said he hoped to meet Peres and invited the team of Israeli officials who have been conducting the Taba talks to go to Cairo and continue the negotiations, officials at the prime minister's office said.

Last Monday the Israeli cabinet

approved a 14-point plan to improve relations with Egypt.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said in Cairo on Thursday that Egypt saw the decision to refer Taba to international arbitration as positive.

Israel held on to Taba when it handed the rest of Sinai back to Egypt in 1982. Egypt has long insisted on independent arbitration to resolve the dispute.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger arrived here on Friday and fended off suggestions that he might be asked to arbitrate the Taba dispute.

Dr. Kissinger, a guest of Tel Aviv University, is to be awarded an honorary doctorate for his services to Mideast peace.

Dr. Kissinger told an Associated Press reporter who asked if he would mediate between the two countries, "No, I don't think that will happen." He is accompanied by his wife Nancy.

The newspaper Davar reported that Dr. Kissinger was to meet with Peres on Saturday and with other government leaders later in the week.

Afro-Arab meeting voices support of Palestinian rights

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The Permanent Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation said on Friday that the only solution to the Palestine question lies in the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

At the conclusion of a three-day meeting, which started here on Wednesday, the committee supported a proposal by Jordan for holding an international peace conference on the Mideast to be attended by all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The committee also called for putting an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

It also called for supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people

to liberate their occupied land and establish their own state under the leadership of the PLO. The committee further called on all world countries and international and regional organisations to shoulder their responsibilities for putting an end to Israel's aggressive acts against the Palestinian people, and condemned Israel's violation of the sanctity of Haram Al Sharif in Jerusalem.

The committee also condemned the U.S. policy, which, it said, is based on supporting Israel to implement its expansionist policies in the occupied Arab territories.

The committee stressed the need for intensifying contacts with the European Community states to develop a positive stand towards the Palestine question and to encourage them to contribute positively to international efforts for holding an international peace

conference. The committee called for coordinated efforts at the international level to force Israel to withdraw from South Lebanon and to support the Lebanese resistance.

The committee recommended that the Namibia (South West Africa) question be solved in accordance with United Nations resolutions and condemned the governments extending aid to the racial regime of South Africa. The committee called for all efforts to hold an international conference on sanctions against South Africa.

The committee viewed any deviation from a comprehensive boycott of the two racial regimes in South Africa and Israel as detrimental to the Arab and African causes.

(Continued on page 3)

Spain establishes ties with Israel, stresses PLO role in peace effort

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — Spain and Israel established diplomatic relations on Friday for the first time, in a ceremony marked by a categorical Spanish denunciation of Israeli occupation and annexation of Arab land.

Spain also balanced its move towards Israel by calling for the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Mideast peace talks.

The diplomatic agreement signed in The Hague by the two nations will be sealed personally Sunday in a meeting here between Israeli Premier Shimon Peres and Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez, according to both governments.

In Madrid, the Spanish government appealed for Arab understanding of its new relations with Israel and reiterated its call for Middle East peace talks to include the PLO.

"We believe the Arab people will perfectly understand our position in favour of peace... we hope they will act in accordance and intelligently," Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez told a news conference in Madrid.

Mr. Fernandez Ordóñez said he had met representatives of Arab

countries recently at the United Nations General Assembly, in Tunis and in Madrid to explain Spain's position.

Foreign ministry officials from Israel and Spain signed the agreement at a secret meeting in the Hague, guarded by police on maximum alert after warnings of possible guerrilla attacks in The Netherlands, the Dutch government said.

As it signed the agreement, Spain issued a statement saying it would remain close links with the Arab World and calling for recognition of Palestinian rights in a peace settlement.

It called for talks under international auspices "with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation as representative of the Palestinian people."

Spain said it opposed "territorial acquisition" by force, and stressed its "non-recognition" of annexation of Arab territories occupied by Israel since the June 1967 war.

Within that context, Spain called for the dismantling of Israeli settlements in occupied territories, and said it opposed the 1980 Israeli annexation of Jer-

usalem.

"The Spanish government considers that the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people, and specifically the right to self-determination, must be recognised and guaranteed," said the declaration. But it added that "the right to peaceful existence for all states in the region, within secure and internationally recognised boundaries, must be guaranteed."

In response, the Israeli government reiterated at the ceremony, the peace initiative proposals made by Peres at the U.N. in October, when he called for an international Middle East peace conference, involving talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. (Full text of statement appears on page 2).

Spanish-Israeli matters have been handled for the last five years by an unofficial Israeli diplomatic mission in Madrid attached to the World Tourism Organisation.

Greece is now the only European Community (EC) nation without full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Spain is the last West European country to establish diplomatic ties with Israel and it decided to do so after joining the EC on Jan. 1.

No sign of compromise on SDI in Geneva

GENEVA (Agencies) — The Soviet Union tabled a vast plan for banning all nuclear weapons from the earth by the year 2000 when U.S. and Soviet negotiators opened a new round of arms control talks here on Thursday.

Moscow's ambitious proposals were unveiled by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev just before the new round, the first since the Geneva November summit between Mr. Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan, opened.

But Western diplomats following the talks said the unusually far-reaching Soviet proposals should not hide the fact that Moscow still made an agreement on arms reduction dependent on the U.S. abandoning its strategic defence initiative (SDI).

The U.S. "Star Wars" research programme on a space- and land-based missile defence has been the major stumbling block since the negotiations began in March last year.

As the negotiators embarked on the fourth round, there were no signs of a rapprochement on "Star Wars," the diplomats noted.

Mr. Gorbachev also announced a three-month extension of a Soviet freeze on nuclear testing which started last Aug. 6, the 40th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The U.S. administration said it still refused to join the moratorium.

The Soviet delegation led by Viktor Karpov introduced the three-stage, 15-year plan during a two-hour meeting at the Soviet mission.

The plenary session grouped the three teams negotiating on intercontinental nuclear missiles, medium-range missiles and space weapons.

In Bonn, Chancellor Helmut Kohl was quoted as saying West Germany would examine the Soviet plan carefully, while Britain's Foreign Office said the proposals contained new elements which had to be scrutinised.

Sweden hailed the extension of the talks.

which Moscow took during the closing days of World War II and Tokyo still regards as Japanese territory.

The foreign ministers met after a day-long talks to compose an acceptable statement to cover the nagging territorial dispute.

The sources did not say how the expected communique would be worded. The territorial disagreement over the islands has been seen as the outstanding problem in the talks.

They said they were not sure when the communique would be issued. "All I can say now is 'no communique tonight'," one source stated.

the test ban as signalling hope for world peace, and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said he hoped the proposals would lead to elimination of all nuclear weapons by the end of the century.

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar welcomed the "bold ideas" contained in Moscow's plan.

Mr. Karpov told reporters the new round would concentrate on proposals to cut the superpowers' strategic arsenals by half.

The Soviet Union proposes that in a first stage, weapons which can reach each other's territory be reduced by 50 per cent within the next five to eight years.

But it says this could only be possible if Washington renounced "Star Wars."

The United States has formally announced it would not join in the extended Soviet moratorium but President Reagan said he was grateful for a new Kremlin arms control offer.

Both the White House and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger also said the Reagan administration was determined to go ahead with "Star Wars."

Mr. Weinberger told a news conference it was "very, very worrisome" that the Soviet Union continued to link its arms reduction proposals to an end to the "Star Wars" programme.

He and White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Washington had to pursue its nuclear weapons testing, which officials say is largely devoted to experiments with hydrogen bomb-powered "Star Wars" lasers.

"The Soviet Union now does not need to test. It is important for us to test," Speakes told reporters.

He added that Mr. Reagan remained "totally committed" to SDI. Answering shouted questions from reporters at a picture session in the cabinet room on Thursday, Mr. Reagan said he was "very grateful" for a letter from Mr. Gorbachev outlining his new plan and that it would be studied carefully.

Settlers, Arabs clash in Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jewish settlers clashed with Palestinian worshippers at the Ibrahim Mosque in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron over who had the right to pray there and Israeli troops dispersed the crowd, reports said.

An Israeli spokesman said that at 6:15 a.m. Israeli troops rushed to the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron when they heard shouting coming from the building which houses the cave. The mosque houses the reputed burial place of the Biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

A number of Palestinians were arrested, reports said. Jews and Muslims are permitted to pray at the holy place at different times to avoid conflict. Jews are normally permitted to pray early in the morning, but on Friday the Jewish settlers tried to disrupt Palestinians attending prayers there, reports said.

On Tuesday, a fracas erupted on Jerusalem's Haram Al Sharif when 20 Israeli legislators visited the area.

Palestinians shouted at one of the legislators who began praying on the site and the Israeli team had to cut short the visit.

Members of the U.N. Security Council were holding private consultations over a request by Morocco and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for an urgent meeting of the council to discuss Israeli violations of the sanctity of Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem.

In a letter to council President Li Luyue of China, Morocco's Ambassador Moulay Mehdi Alaoui, current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), drew attention to the "serious threat to international peace and security resulting from Israeli acts of profanation committed recently against the sanctuary of Haram Al Sharif."

A similar letter was sent to the council president by UAE Ambassador Mohammad Al Shaali, current chairman of the Arab group.

Westland shareholders fail to endorse Sikorsky offer

LONDON (R) — Shareholders of Britain's ailing Westland Helicopter Company, meeting against a background of a political crisis, failed on Friday to endorse a rescue package led by the U.S. Sikorsky company.

Just over 65 per cent of the shareholders supported the two resolutions which would have opened the way for the deal, well below the 75 per cent needed for approval recommended by the Westland board.

Westland Chairman Sir John Cuckney said he would appeal to a rival European consortium to withdraw its offer and open the way for a rescue.

A much closer result had been expected. Support for the European offer of almost 35 per cent of the vote was considerably more than had been predicted.

Lack of orders had forced the company to the verge of bankruptcy and Mr. Cuckney told shareholders failure to agree on a speedy rescue could threaten its existence.

Mr. Cuckney was clearly upset by the vote. He urged the European consortium leaders to "do the honourable thing. Let your proposal lapse. Do not destroy Westland by attrition."

He said the board of Westlands remained firmly behind the U.S.-led bid and would try to find another way of winning approval for it.

U.S. says it has 'incontrovertible' proof of Libyan links with attacks

ROME (Agencies) — The United States has "incontrovertible evidence" of Libyan involvement in the armed attacks at Rome and Vienna airports in which 19 people died, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead said on Friday after a meeting with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi.

Mr. Whitehead, who is on a tour to enlist allied support for Washington's economic sanctions against Libya, said he could give no details of the evidence contained in a classified document he handed to Mr. Craxi.

But he told a news conference the document had a lot of information that went beyond a Jan. 8 State Department white paper that accused Libya of supplying passports to the guerrillas who attacked the Israeli airline counter at Vienna airport.

Mr. Whitehead said the U.S. was presenting its allies with "incontrovertible evidence of Libya's involvement in the recent incidents at the Rome airport and the Vienna airport."

"The specific evidence of (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi's involvement in the two airport incidents is... incontrovertible. I cannot detail that for you because obviously if the detailed nature of it is known it will only help the

terrorists," Mr. Whitehead said. But he said Mr. Whitehead was already known about Libyan involvement "so that no-one need have any fear that we are going after an innocent man."

Mr. Whitehead, who has already talked to Canadian and British government leaders, had a two-hour meeting with Mr. Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti during which he handed the prime minister a letter from President Reagan.

He said afterwards there were differences between the U.S. and its European allies over the likely effectiveness of economic sanctions against Libya announced on Jan. 7.

In Strasbourg, the European Parliament on Thursday condemned the attacks on Rome and Vienna airports but warned that it doubted the effectiveness of economic sanctions.

The parliament's condemnation, agreed by members

after an emergency debate, failed to mention Libya by name.

The European Community (EC) has failed to back the sanctions announced by President Reagan.

In Bonn, a high-ranking West German official said investigators lack proof that Libya was involved in the Rome and Vienna attacks. Juergen Moellmann, an under-secretary of state in the Bonn Foreign Ministry, was quoted as saying by a newspaper the Italian and Austrian governments report there is "until now no sufficient evidence" that Libya participated in the Dec. 27 attacks.

The Norwegian government has decided not to heed Mr. Reagan's call for sanctions against Libya but will urge residents not to fly jobs created by American citizens leaving the African country.

In Paris, former French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson sharply attacked U.S. policy towards Libya, saying the only way to counter Col. Qadhafi was to stop buying his oil.

Mr. Cheysson, now an EC commissioner in Brussels, told the weekly magazine Paris Match he was shocked and stunned by President Reagan's response to Col. Qadhafi.

He said Mr. Reagan had not

taken any serious decisions against Libya. "If it is confirmed that Qadhafi helped finance the teams which carried out the airport attacks in Rome and Vienna, it is abominable. It is normal that the American president should want to react, but not like that," Mr. Cheysson said.

In Washington, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger on Thursday sought to play down his differences with Secretary of State George Shultz over the use of force in response to Libya, saying their disagreement was only a "matter of emphasis."

"The indiscriminate (military) response is not what anybody is calling for," Mr. Weinberger told a press conference. "I don't think, for example, that Secretary Shultz has in mind spraying any target which somebody mentions might be a target."

Mr. Shultz, widely seen as an advocate of the use of force against guerrillas reported to be in Libya, said on Wednesday that Washington could not "let the ambiguities of the terrorist threat reduce us to total impotence."

Mr. Weinberger is reported to have advised President Reagan against the use of U.S. military might.

Qadhafi's plan to dismantle army faces opposition

TRIPOLI (R) — In Colonel Muammar Qadhafi's vision of his country there is no army — only a people trained to defend itself.

But in trying to realise his dream he faces opposition from within the institution that carried him to power 16 years ago.

As part of the process of dismantling the army, members of the revolutionary guards and committees — civilian watchdog bodies — have been moving into barracks amid opposition from officers who over the past two years have lost many of their traditional privileges.

Among those opposed to the growing power of the revolutionary group within the military was Colonel Hassan Isahag, a cousin of Col. Qadhafi and the military governor of Sirte.

He died in mysterious circumstances on Nov. 23, diplomats say.

The Tripoli rumour mill has provided at least a dozen versions of his death, which officially was reported as an accident.

"For the Libyans it was a car accident, it is always a car accident," one foreign diplomat said. "We think he was a very popular man who could in a way resist Qadhafi."

Col. Isahag, 45, was considered the third most important man in Libya after Col. Qadhafi and Major Abdul Salam Jalloud.

Maj. Jalloud is seen as the supreme of the revolutionary committee movement and diplomats say he and Col. Isahag, who opposed the erosion of the army's traditional powers, repeatedly quarrelled.

At a news conference Thursday night Maj. Jalloud denied reports that Col. Isahag was murdered. "There was no such thing. The story is a fabrication woven by the (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency)," Maj. Jalloud said.

Col. Qadhafi himself was a young army officer when he seized power in a coup which toppled the monarchy and allowed him to establish the Libyan Jamahiriya.

Col. Qadhafi told five women interviewers recently that his dream was to see his vision of the armed masses realised in what he called the "concrete utopia" he has created for the 3.6 million Libyans.

"The army will soon disappear and make way for an army of the people," he said. He conceded that there was a certain amount of discontent within the army but said this did not worry him.

But diplomats say Col. Qadhafi is aware that he has to tread carefully on matters concerning the military.

"Sometimes you see that the army is up and at other times it is down. It depends on what is happening in the country," one diplomat said.

Col. Qadhafi's mistrust of the army grew after a March 1984 attack on his headquarters at the Bab Al Azzazia barracks in Tripoli.

UAE businessman freed against \$3m ransom

LONDON (AP) — Mohammad Sadiq Al Tajir, kidnapped businessman and brother of the United Arab Emirates ambassador to Britain, was found safe and well in London Friday after a \$3-million ransom was paid, police said.

Scotland Yard said the ransom was paid after telephone negotiations between Ambassador Sayed Mohammad Al Tajir and an intermediary identified only as Mr. X.

The kidnapping occurred in London Jan. 7 but police asked the media not to report it for fear of jeopardising the victim.

A Scotland Yard statement said Mr. Tajir was found "safe and well" at an address in South London which it did not disclose.

It said the ransom money "has been cleared and collected by Mr.

X in the Middle East" following negotiations that began in the United States, moved to Geneva and then went to Beirut via Geneva.

It said "Mr. X has always stated categorically on each occasion that he was purely an intermediary and not involved in any kidnapping plot," the statement said.

It gave no information on the go-between's whereabouts or nationality, but said Mr. X told the ambassador the negotiations were going slowly because the kidnappers could only contact London once every 24 hours.

Press Association, the British domestic news agency, said the original demand was for \$50 million. It said the ambassador received the demand from Mr. X the day after the kidnapping.

Kuwait denies Israeli jets intercepted plane over Golan

KUWAIT (Agencies) — An airline official has denied an Israeli report that its jets intercepted a Kuwaiti passenger plane that strayed over the strategic Golan Heights on Thursday and escorted it away from the area.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted Kuwait Airways Chairman Ahmad Mishari as saying an Airbus on a flight from Damascus to Kuwait on Thursday deviated from its normal route.

KUNA said the pilot detected the fault, "immediately adjusted the plane's cruising route and proceeded to Kuwait," completing what it called a normal and smooth flight.

"Mishari gave Israel the lie by stressing the commander of the Kuwaiti Airbus said he did not observe any Israeli planes intercepting his plane as Radio Israel alleged," KUNA said.

Israel claimed on Thursday that the plane penetrated three kilometres into "Israeli territory" in the area of the Golan Heights, regarded by Israel and Syria as highly sensitive area.

Aviation sources here subsequently said the intercepted plane was a Kuwait Airways Airbus 310, with around 110 passengers and crew, which landed one hour behind schedule.

Israeli army to fire senior officers because of budget cuts

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army plans to fire dozens of senior officers holding the rank of brigadier and colonel because of budget cutbacks, an Israeli newspaper reported on Friday.

The officers who will lose their jobs are in the general staff and field headquarters, and will be replaced by lower-ranked lie-

utenant colonels, the Maariv newspaper said.

The Defence Ministry budget has been cut as part of government attempts to curb inflation which ran at 185 per cent in 1985 and 445 per cent in 1984. The defence budget is estimated as comprising 25 to 35 per cent of the national budget.

Waite still working for release of hostages

LONDON (AP) — Terry Waite, the Church of England's special envoy, said on Thursday he was still working for the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon but has no immediate plans to return to Beirut to resume direct negotiations with their kidnappers.

"I am keeping a low profile at this time," Mr. Waite told the Associated Press. "I am actively working on the problem, and I remain cautiously optimistic."

Mr. Waite made three trips to Beirut last year after four American hostages wrote a letter to Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, spiritual head of the Church of England, appealing for his help in gaining their freedom.

Mr. Waite last left Beirut on Christmas eve, saying his mission had suffered a setback.

Major hurdles in Mr. Waite's

efforts have been the kidnappers' demand for Kuwait to release 17 comrades convicted of bombing the U.S. and French embassies in December 1983 and Kuwait's refusal to grant Mr. Waite a visa to travel to Kuwait to discuss the matter.

However, British journalists travelling with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on a tour of the Gulf region quoted Kuwaiti officials as saying that Mr. Waite would be welcomed as a tourist although he would not be allowed to raise the hostage issue.

"Mr. Waite would be welcomed here — as a tourist," London's Daily Telegraph quoted an unidentified Kuwaiti official as telling British journalists. "But this is not a tourist country."

"If Mr. Waite did come here, he could not discuss the situation of the 17 men convicted after a fair trial and serving their sentences.

Algerians approve revised national charter

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's revised national charter, the country's ideological platform, was approved by a massive majority 98.37 per cent of voters, in a referendum on Thursday, Interior Minister Mohammad Yala said Friday.

More than 10 million people — 95.92 per cent of the electorate — voted, and only 180,790 of them cast negative ballots, according to final figures released by the Yala and published by the news agency APS.

The original version of the charter which formally established Algeria as a one-party socialist state was adopted by 98.5 per cent of voters in 1976 when Colonel Houari Boumedienne was president.

The new version drafted under President Chadli Benjedid reaffirms Algeria's socialist orientation under one party, the National Liberation Front (FLN). But it lays greater stress on the role of private enterprise in the economy and on Islam as the state religion.

The approval strengthened President Benjedid's hand to implement his pragmatic policies against old-guard hardliners depending a more doctrinaire brand of socialism, diplomats said.

When Mr. Benjedid voted in the referendum on Thursday, he was accompanied by Mohammed Cherif Messadia, the number two in the FLN after him, APS said.

It was the first time that Mr. Messadia's presence in Algeria was mentioned by official media since an announcement at a December party congress that he had to undergo urgent hospital treatment abroad.

The new charter has modified the concept of Algerian socialism, with the private sector given a more prominent role in the economy than the 1976 text.

There is no link between those men and the American hostages in Beirut."

Mr. Waite said he had no comment on the reports from Kuwait. The four hostages who wrote to Archbishop Runcie are: Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press; the Rev. Lawrence Jenko, Roman Catholic priest; David Jacobson, director of Beirut American University Hospital; and Thomas Sutherland, the university's dean of agriculture.

"Islamic Jihad," a Shiite extremist group, claimed on Nov. 17 that it had killed another hostage, U.S. diplomat William Buckley. But no body has been found.

Nothing has been heard of sixth American, Peter Kilburn, librarian at the American University of Beirut, who has been missing for 13 months.

Spain underlines PLO role, urges Mideast conference

THE HAGUE (R) — The following are the texts of a joint statement by Spain and Israel on their establishment of diplomatic relations and of a separate statement by Spain.

Joint statement:

Delegations of the governments of Spain and Israel have met today in The Hague. In accordance with the principle of universal relations among states, and bearing in mind the profound historical bonds that link the Spanish people and the Jewish people, the two governments have decided to establish diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel from today.

Consequently, embassies will be opened in Tel Aviv and Madrid and their respective ambassadors appointed. The status of Spain's consulate-general in Jerusalem will not be affected by this fact.

On the occasion of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the government of Spain has presented to the government of Israel a declaration with its position on the situation in the Middle East and the search for peace in the area.

On its side, the government of Israel has reiterated its own positions as they are stated in the basic lines of action of the gov-

ernment of national unity and set forth by Prime Minister Shimon Peres in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Oct. 14, 1985.

Statement of the Spanish government:

Today, the Spanish government, inspired by its policy of universal diplomatic relations and by its friendly feelings towards the Jewish people, whose contribution is a part of Spain's historical and cultural heritage, has decided to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

In doing so, the Spanish government wishes to emphasise that it will maintain its traditional policy of friendship and solidarity towards the Arab World, closely linked to Spain by shared bonds of history and culture.

Especially, the Spanish government reaffirms the validity of the prohibition of resorting to the threat or use of force, which forbids, in particular, to recognise any territorial acquisition effected by such means.

Consequently, the Spanish government reiterates the non-recognition by Spain of any measures directed towards the annexation of Arab territories occupied since 1967, or towards the unilateral change of the nature or status of the city of Jerusalem, where free access must always be open for all.

In this framework, Spain rejects the policy of building settlements in the occupied territories and calls for their dismantling as a first step towards the devolution of those territories.

The Spanish government considers that the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people, and specifically the right to self-determination, must be recognised and guaranteed.

Simultaneously, the right to peaceful existence for all states in the region, within secure and internationally-recognised boundaries, must be guaranteed.

Consequently, Spain states its belief that all parties involved should accept and abide to the relevant United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338, that must form the basis of the search for a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On this basis, and in order to reach this solution, it is necessary to open a negotiation process between the interested parties, under appropriate international auspices, with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as representative of the Palestinian people.

After joining the European Community, Spain is confident that it will be able to contribute more actively to open the way to a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the conflict, and is ready not to spare any effort towards this end.

Therefore, the Spanish government declares its willingness to work in the framework of the community and other international fora and with the interested parties in favour of these principles and lines of action.

Finally, the Spanish government trusts that the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel will constitute a new favourable element in the road towards peace, and is also firmly convinced that it is possible to face the future in the expectation that a just peace for all is an attainable goal.

Hobeika had brief but bloody reign

BEIRUT (R) — Deposed militia chief Elie Hobeika was the man Syria hoped would swing the Christian community behind a historic pact with Muslims to end Lebanon's civil war.

Instead, the 29-year-old leader of the "Lebanese Forces" militia was spirited out of Lebanon into exile on Thursday after a hum-

iliating defeat by Christian opponents of the deal.

Hobeika's bloody trouncing on the streets of east Beirut has left Syrian peace plans — and his career — in tatters.

"His mistake was that he worked alone. He did not consult the (other) Christians," commented Fuad Abu Nader, an old

comrade-in-arms who himself briefly commanded the militia.

"He confronted us with a fait accompli which we could not accept," Abu Nader said, referring to the peace accord Hobeika signed with two other militia heads on Dec. 28.

In signing, Hobeika defied senior politicians who felt the pact

"Because we lived that experience with all its bitterness and cruelty, and because we understood the game and its secrets, we decided to struggle to end the war," he said.

It was perhaps Hobeika's lack of political experience which finally left him isolated and rejected by the Christians.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77111-19	
MAIN CHANNEL	
16:00	Korona
16:30	Cartoon
17:25	Children programmes
18:00	Play It Safe
18:30	Korona
19:00	Different Strokes
19:30	Korona
19:40	News programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:00	Local Programme
21:30	Arabic Film
22:00	News in Arabic
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of old times newspaper, "La presse Napoléonienne" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 16).

* Permanent book exhibition and plastic arts gallery at Dar Al Jaleel Publishing House, Jabal Al Hussein, opposite to the British Bank of the Middle East.

CINEMA

* "La maison des Bories" at 7:45 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267
 American Centre - 644371
 American Centre Library - 641520
 British Council - 6361478
 French Cultural Centre - 637009
 Goethe Institute - 641993
 Soviet Cultural Centre - 644203
 Spanish Cultural Centre - 624049
 Turkish Cultural Centre - 639777
 Haya Arts Centre - 665195
 Hassan Youth City - 6671816
 Y.W.C.A. - 641793
 Y.W.M.C.A. - 644203
 American Municipal Library - 637111
 University of Jordan Library - 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: A permanent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Aqsa (Circled Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Continuous collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists and a collection of paintings by the country's modernist artists. Mount Sion, Jabal Lweishieh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

SERVICE CLUBS

Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.

Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

CHURCHES

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphus Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7.30 p.m.

Philadelphus Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1.30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel. 2.00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624500.

St. Mary's Church (Roman Catholic) Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lweishieh. 637440.

De la Saule Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. 661787.

Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. 678006.

American Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 771331.

American Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 772561.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. 771751.

International Protestant Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church. Amman. 14th Circle. (Rev. N. Smir). Tel. 811295.

Rainbow Congregation (Inter-denominational, interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman. Tel. 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

05:14	Fajr
06:37	(Sunrise) Duha
11:46	Dhuhr
14:36	'Asr
16:27	Maghrib
18:20	Isha

NEWS IN BRIEF

IDB grants \$15m loan to Jordan

JEDDAH (J.T.) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has approved a \$15 million loan to Jordan which will be used to help finance the Kingdom's oil purchases from Saudi Arabia. A report carried by Reuters from Jeddah said that the IDB will grant loans totalling \$90 million to six Arab and Islamic nations including Jordan which are needed to finance the purchase of equipment, oil and other purchases. A meeting of the IDB board of directors reviewed existing projects and considered proposals to be submitted to finance ministers at IDB's 10th annual board of governors meeting scheduled to be held in Amman during March.

Senate member meets U.S. advisor

AMMAN (Petra) — Member of the Upper House of Parliament Bahjat Al Taji Thursday received visiting parliamentary advisor to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Mr. Edward Drominsky. The two officials reviewed U.S. stands over the past two decades vis-à-vis Arab issues. Discussions also focused on Arab expectations of a just and even-handed U.S. position on the Palestinian question and other regional issues.

First term tawjihi exams start today

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 49,912 students throughout the Kingdom today start their first term exams for the general secondary certificate (tawjihi) for the year 1985/1986 at all government and private schools. Of these, 31.17 per cent are private students. The Ministry of Education and its departments in various governorates have made all the necessary arrangements for the exams and have prepared 654 halls for the exam and also appointed heads and controllers for these halls. The ministry cautioned students against cheating and requested them to abide by exam regulations.

Majali sends circular to ministries

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali has issued a circular stressing that all ministries and government departments should reply to enquiries from the Audit Bureau. The circular said: "It has been noticed that some ministries and government departments have not replied promptly and in accordance with applied laws and regulations to Audit Bureau enquiries contained in its annual report for 1984 regarding some violations." Dr. Majali urged ministries and government departments to respond promptly to all the bureau's enquiries and letters to enable the bureau to perform its responsibilities and duties effectively and accurately.

American admiral concludes visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral William Crowe has left Amman at the end of an official visit to Jordan during which he met with senior officials and toured military positions. Admiral Crowe, who was accompanied by his wife and a U.S. military delegation, was seen off by Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and other senior aides as well as U.S. embassy staff in Jordan.

Centre marks Martin Luther King Day

AMMAN (Petra) — The American Centre in Amman Thursday held a teleconference via satellite telephone link with Professor Ronald Walters in honour of the first observance of Martin Luther King Day. Dr. Walters is a professor of Political Science at Howard University and was chief strategist of the Jesse Jackson presidential campaign during the 1984 elections. Jordanian university professors and journalists asked Prof. Walters about the international impact of King's teachings and principles.

Special team suggests ways to support contractors

By Hassan Aqil
Petra

AMMAN — A special committee formed in May 1985 following a cabinet decision to draw up a comprehensive strategy for supporting and reviving the construction sector and finding solutions to its problems has recommended to the cabinet that local contractors employ local manpower and use available machinery and equipment. The committee also recommended that foreign contractors be banned from implementing local projects unless they form joint ventures with Jordanian contractors.

Speaking about the committee's recommendation, its Chairman Mahmoud Hawamdeh, the minister of public works, said that the committee also recommended that the cabinet issue a decision banning the registration of joint ventures, including a Jordanian and a foreigner for specific projects in order to give local contractors an opportunity to implement local projects and to minimise competition from foreign contractors.

Mr. Hawamdeh continued that the committee recommended that a special arbitration committee be formed to study disputes in the various construction, industrial and commercial fields. The proposed committee should group representatives of both the private and public sectors, with a nine-member board of directors to be appointed by the cabinet.

The committee further recommended that a sub-committee, comprising the president of the Jordan Engineering Association, directors of industry and representatives for the Ministry of Public Works and Specifications Department, be formed to draw up an evaluative study on establishing a separate metrology and specifications department. The proposed department will be in charge of issuing standard specifications and preparing a plan for protecting local industries, Mr. Hawamdeh said.

The committee also recommended to the concerned authorities that tenders be invited from Jordanian contractors according to their specialisation, classification and within a fixed maximum of costs. The specialisations would be building, road construction, water and sewerage networks, irrigation, mining and electro-mechanical. If a project exceeds the ceiling cost, local contractors shall be asked to form joint ventures or consortiums so that they can be qualified or the projects could be divided into several smaller projects, each falling within the set ceiling.



Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al Hussein (right), Ministry of Communications Under Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif (left) and his Omani counterpart Abdullah Saki Abdullah (centre) discuss postal and telephone services in Jordan and Oman (Petra photo)

Jordan, WHO finalise budget, plan for 1986-87 health cooperation agreement

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have finished drawing up a budget and working plan for their forthcoming 1986-1987 bilateral cooperation agreement in health related affairs. WHO regional representative Abdul Majid Abdul Hadi said Friday.

Dr. Hadi, who arrived in Amman on Tuesday, met with Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh for discussions on prospects in future coordination including holding joint seminars and training courses to upgrade the medical profession in the Kingdom, basic health care, accident prevention activities and other related issues. The talks also reviewed the previous 1984-1985 working plan assessed the results achieved during the implementation of the plan.

Corporation offers Abu Nuseir houses to general public

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation has announced that members of the public other than civil servants and members of the armed forces now have the opportunity to own homes at the Abu Nuseir housing estate near Jubaila.

Housing Corporation Director General Shafiq Zawaideh said in a statement that government employees who are single but who support other members of their families, members of the armed forces and other citizens can apply for housing units at the estate, now eight kilometres north west of Amman.

Committee okays draft educational administration

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education's Planning and Coordination Committee has approved the new draft administrative organisation of the ministry which will be put into effect after approval by the concerned authorities, a report in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i said Friday.

Under the new system, there will be three administrative levels: higher administration, intermediate administration and school administration, the report said. The new organisational procedure aims to increase interaction between the various administrative levels. Under Secretary at the Education Ministry Ahmad Al Bashairah was quoted as saying.

Gemayel loyalists retake bases

(Continued from page 1)

ement chief Nabih Berri. But the Falange has indicated it still backs Syria's role as the main arbiter between Lebanon's warring factions.

"The party considers as taken for granted the establishment of privileged relations with Syria. This element imposes a healthy national framework for the two countries," a Falange statement said Thursday night.

The establishment of "privileged" ties was a reform stipulated in the Syrian-backed peace pact. "What happened was internal and has nothing to do with the relationship with Syria... but if it (Syria) resorts to force against the Christians, this will unify them," Falange military chief Fuad Abu Nader told Reuters.

The fact's reforms to give Muslims more power provoked the Christian backlash that succeeded in uniting Mr. Geagea with old rivals in the Falange Party against Mr. Hobeika.

Mr. Geagea, on Friday talked to Falange Party chief Elie Karameh in an apparent bid to form a united Christian position towards Syria.

"Geagea and the Falange had a plan to scuttle Hobeika, but they have no plan for the aftermath. No-one knows who is in control. There is the possibility of further violence (between Christians)," said a Christian political source.

A source close to Mr. Berri and Mr. Junblatt, who held talks on Friday with Syrian officials in Damascus, said the overthrow of Mr. Hobeika had put peace prospects "back to square one."

Jordan, Oman agree to expand postal, telephone services

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministries of Communications in Jordan and Oman have reached agreement on expanding and developing telephone and postal services between them in order to offer better services to people in both countries. They also agreed to exchange expertise to improve the performance of these two sectors.

Agreement was reached during talks between Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al Hussein and Under Secretary of the Omani Ministry of Communications Abdullah Saki Abdullah, who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of introducing an express mail service between Oman and Jordan and agreed to exchange memoranda on bilateral cooperation on a regular basis, especially regarding the coordination of stands at international conferences.

At the meeting, which was attended by Under Secretary of the Ministry of Communications Mansour Ibn Tarif, both sides made a comprehensive review of bilateral cooperation and also discussed subjects connected with the performance of the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (Arabsat) and making use of the two Arab satellites now in orbit, according to a ministry spokesman.

The minister was quoted as saying that Jordan was constantly doing its best to develop economic, industrial and communications cooperation with Oman under the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman. To date the two countries have made good and positive steps towards bolstering their cooperation in telephone communications and they plan to carry out further steps soon to improve and expand communications between them, the minister said.

Mr. Ibn Tarif presented a briefing on the Jordanian postal and telephone services to his Omani counterpart and heard a similar briefing on the services provided in Oman.

Royal Decree approves religious guidance law

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the religious guidance law and sermons and religious teaching given to congregations in mosques.

Under the law, sermons should be restricted to religion and wise guidance of the congregation. Preachers should refrain from slander, accusations or incitement against any individuals or organisations and their sermons should remain within the context of Islamic tenets. The new law states that the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs must offer training to preachers in order that they can shoulder their responsibility in a proper manner.

The law also provides for the formation of a council of preachers presided over by the minister of Awqaf and grouping the Islamic Chief Justice, the General Mufti and the under secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf among other leading Islamic figures. This council has been entrusted with preparing a general policy for preaching and religious guidance and teaching and it will also help reorganise religious matters at mosques.

GFJW to study amendments to organisation's statutes

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) will hold a seminar in Amman today to study prospects of introducing amendments to the federation's bylaws and statutes with the purpose of giving impetus to Jordanian women's role in development, according to GFJW President Haifa Al Bashir.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mrs. Bashir said that the meeting is necessary to find ways of promoting women's skills and improving women's capabilities and contributions towards the country's economic, political and social development.

The meeting, to be held under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, will look into ways to make the GFJW statutes more flexible to enable Jordanian women to shoulder their national responsibility, Mrs. Bashir added. She continued that the GFJW cooperates with similar federations in other Arab states and added that it continues to follow regional and international developments of concern to its women.

Referring to the federation's programmes and activities, Mrs. Bashir said that the GFJW will establish multi-purpose centres in rural regions in an effort to improve the conditions of local women by providing classes and social activities and also offering these women the opportunity to learn reading and writing.

The radio, now thought to be operating only on medium-wave, has been heard only sporadically outside South Yemen in the past five days.

Arab diplomatic sources in touch with Aden were quoted by Reuters as saying the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party's (YSP) politburo had previously set up a committee of five, including four cabinet ministers neutral in the dispute, "to take the necessary steps to restore peace and security."

The sources said tribesmen in the interior were taking sides in the rebellion, but apparently in line with personal loyalty to protagonists in the dispute, rather than ideologies.

In some of the first eyewitness reports on the fighting, Westerners who escaped from Aden to Djibouti aboard a Soviet freighter described how tanks and gunboats exchanged fire along the waterfront.

They said aircraft attacked fuel storage dumps. Eleven foreigners said they were rescued by the captain of the Pavel Antokolsky who dashed for safety despite orders from harbour control that no vessels should leave.

The committee called for expediting a joint legal framework for encouraging investments in Arab and African states and called for holding a joint conference for Arab and African investors.

The committee called for establishing cultural societies and universities.

The committee's forthcoming meeting will be held in Bourkina Faso. Arab and African foreign ministers will meet in Libya this year to prepare for an Arab-African summit in 1987.

Arbor Day: highlight of the busy forestry year

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — This year's activities during the tree-planting season (January to March) and the Arbor Day celebrations on Jan. 15 and 25 aim at the promotion of forestry and agriculture in Jordan, according to Director of the Department of Forest and Range Affairs Abu Orabi. This is also the reason behind the "main" celebrations on Jan. 25 to be held at a farm near Mastaba where mainly fruit trees and olives will be planted.

Arbor Day was introduced in 1939 on the initiative of the late King Abdullah and the first trees were planted on Castle Mountain (the Citadel) of Amman. Since then it has been observed every year. However, the day marks only a small fraction of the forestry activities for a whole year and serves to highlight the importance of forestry and trees in general for the environment and the protection of agricultural land in particular, said Mr. Orabi. During this year's season, 7.5 million trees will be planted, 3.5 million of them in government projects, mainly for soil conservation purposes, one million will be given to the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and other government institutions (the army, schools etc.) and three million go to the private sector, free of charge, explained Head of the Afforestation and Nursery Division Mahmoud Yasin.

The Department of Forest and Range Affairs has prepared 25,000 dunnams of land to be planted with forest and range species this year, Mr. Orabi said. Within the new 5-year-plan, a total area of 70,000 dunnams is to be afforested.

The land owned by the Department of Forest and Range amounts to 1.3 million dunnams, of which 0.3 million dunnams are natural forests and another 0.3 million dunnams artificial ones. Additionally, there are about 55,000 dunnams of private natural forests in Jordan, typical species in the natural forests being oak, pine, juniper and carob.

There are 12 government nurseries all over the country and these nurseries grow about 40 different species of trees for various purposes and to suit different climatic conditions. For instance, pines and acacias are grown for government projects, the private sector is interested in trees suitable for windbreaks (cypresses) as well as in decorative trees, Mr. Yasin said. Atriplex, a bush-like fodder plant, is also available for planting out in the rangelands where annual rainfall is less than 200 mm, he added.

There are several purposes for forest trees in connection with agriculture, Mr. Orabi pointed out. One is the protection of the soil by trees on slopes to stop erosion and to improve the water holding capacity of the soil. Another equally important use for forest species is the protection of farmland in marginal areas, particularly in the desert. Here, forest and range species planted as fences or windbreaks can protect farmland in the desert and possibly stop the advance of desertification.

On farms all over the Kingdom forest trees are used to make windbreaks, that is a row of trees to shelter fields and orchards from the ill effects of strong wind. Fruit trees are especially vulnerable while flowering, as the flowers can easily be blown off and consequently no fruit will be produced. As a rule of thumb, according to Mr. Yasin, it can be said that every tree of a windbreak can protect a strip ten times its own length.

The government's afforestation policy has very recently shifted from pure forests to agroforests, said Mr. Orabi. These, besides forest tree species, include fruit (almond, pistachio, carob, juniper) and fodder trees (oak, lupinus). The dual purpose is to improve the general quality of the forest by a mixture of species and the benefit of the fruit, either for the local population or the government. Fodder and range species can be directly grazed or the fruit is collected as fodder, he continued. Mr. Orabi pointed out that the number one purpose of afforestation in Jordan is soil conservation and erosion control although the other benefits are welcome.

Afforested areas are generally not irrigated and the survival rate of trees ranges from 60 to 90 per cent, according to seasonal variations in climate; a 70 per cent survival rate being acceptable according to Mr. Yasin. To fill gaps, some replanting takes

place in the second year.

Forest fires

The Forest and Range Department's afforestation policy in the 1970's was to plant mainly pine trees as they grow relatively fast and are well suited to the local climate. However, this proved not to be without problems. For one thing, there was a high fire risk and also an increased danger of infestation with pests of the pine monocultures. Therefore, the department now gives priority to mixed forests consisting of pines and broadleaves. Precautions against fire hazards have also been intensified; there are now fire breaks in the forests, look-out posts and fire fighting teams in every district which are equipped with wireless communications. As a result of these measures, fire incidents during last year's summer season were reduced and those which did occur were not as devastating as the big forest fires of 1984, said Mr. Orabi.

Along roadsides, the planting of trees started in 1969/70, but as road extensions and the building of new ones all over the country has destroyed many of those trees, a new effort will be made this year and the planting of 400 km of roadside with trees of various species is planned.

Long-term results from planting trees (J.T. file photo)

Ulgers and members of the community get involved with tree planting activities on Arbor Day (J.T. file photo)

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: The return of Murphy

AMERICAN sources have been quoted as saying that U.S. envoy Richard Murphy is about to embark on a new tour of the Middle East. Israeli sources were quoted as saying that the United States is of the view that the time is ripe again for renewing Washington's initiative for peace. The Arab countries, for their part, are of course willing to accept peace and want to see a peace initiative achieving success because it would ensure the return of rights to their legitimate owners. But given the present American policies and the current Israeli practices vis-a-vis the Middle East, one can only see that these form an obstacle in the way of real peace. Such policies and practices have in the past obstructed all peace initiatives by the same envoy, who came to this region and talked to the Arabs and the Israelis alike. Also it would not be possible to reach a settlement in view of the fact that the United States still rejects any negotiations with the PLO and continues to deny that the organisation represents the Palestinian people. In addition Washington still adamantly rejects the idea of an international conference to discuss peace. To add to all this, the Israelis have been escalating their inhuman practices inside the occupied Arab regions and launching attacks on Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

Al Dustour: Arabs versus threats

IT is quite natural for us to ask about the reason that prevents the Arabs from taking concerted action vis-a-vis the many dangers that threaten them and the serious developments now going on in the Arab arena. This question should be asked in view of the fact that the Arab World is at present witnessing dangerous developments with internal conflicts in Aden and Lebanon and the Gulf region while the Israelis and foreign naval forces are carrying out manoeuvres off Arab shores. The Americans, exploiting the weak condition of the Arab nation, have been making a show of force opposite the Libyan shores, and the Soviets in a bid to help Libya, have moved their naval ships in order to offer help to that country in case of an aggression on it. We do not defend Col. Qadhafi's actions but we at the same time do not accept American threats to Libya or any campaigns launched against it or any other Arab state under the pretence of combating international terrorism. We regard U.S. threats to Libya as unprecedented serious action by a superpower and consider these threats as a danger directed against the whole Arab nation. Had the Arabs been united and strong no other country would have taken such irresponsible action against Libya or any other Arab state. We regret to see the Arab leaders doing nothing to counter such threats or even trying to end the internal wars plaguing their people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Sabotaging peace

THE current conflict among the Maronites in Lebanon could be the last between their factions, but could usher in a new round of fighting among the various warring factions in Lebanon. The Maronite fighting could put an end to any hope for accepting the Damascus accord signed by the leaders of Shi'ites, Druze and one of the Maronite military men, the accord that remains a hope for the Lebanese if they decide to achieve national reconciliation and if they want to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country. The Lebanese president ought to have accepted the Damascus accord so as to save his country from further bloodshed, and he should have left the political leaders of Lebanon the chance to handle political issues and not let his military men deal with the situation. His failure to do so has left the door open for further fighting among the Maronites and the other factions in Lebanon. The Lebanese president seems to have adopted Washington's line of thinking because the United States hates to see Syria handling the situation in Lebanon. His policies also serve the aspirations of Israel which does not want the Lebanese factions to achieve reconciliation.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: American veto

ISRAEL has stated that the United States will resort to the right of veto at the United Nations Security Council to kill any resolution calling on Israel to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon or condemning its actions in that region. We believe that this would happen in view of the U.S.-Israeli relations and the fact that Israel's interests and even its acts of aggression on Arab states are taken into account in Washington while drawing up official American policy for the Middle East region. We would not be surprised at all if the United States vetoed the coming resolution because it is a practice followed by Washington to protect Israel's aggressive policies in our region. But Washington by doing so will be giving further encouragement to Israel for following the same course of action in its relations with the neighbouring Arab states in defiance of United Nations charter and international laws. But this policy can in no way help Israel to impose its hegemony on Lebanon. The resistance forces there, who earlier caused the scrapping of the May 17 agreement between Israel and Lebanon, are bound to foil all Israeli ambitions in Lebanon.

Al Dustour: Egypt's hard debt

BEFORE President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt now is a draft agreement prepared by Israel on the future of Tabu, which belongs to Egypt, and the Egyptian president is expected to take a decision whether to accept it or not in the coming few days. But this agreement contains a heavy price which Israel is trying to exact from Egypt in exchange for a promise that the tiny piece of land in Sinai will be returned to Egyptian sovereignty. Many of the conditions included in the agreement are bound to humiliate Egypt if it accepts them and it will be a moral defeat for Egypt if it refuses such accord. The draft agreement is unacceptable and would take Egypt back after it had taken steps forward to enhance its ties with the Arab World. Jordan was among the foremost Arab states which called for the return of Egypt to the Arab fold and it is really worrying us to see Egypt about to fall in a new Israeli trap. No doubt the Egyptian leadership realises the serious proportions of the Israeli deal which is designed to poison Egypt's ties with the Arab World and pull that country back to the Camp David agreement. The Israeli proposals included in the draft agreement constitute a new conspiracy hatched by the Zionist movement against the Arab World.

Israel: A state led by ex-terrorists, spymasters

By Wilbur Crane Eveland III

THE arrest on 21 November of Jonathan Jay Pollard for stealing Sixth Fleet codes and defence secrets to sell to Israel shocked the American public. To the heads of Zionist organisations, it seemed inconceivable that a Jewish-American would ask to be paid for helping Israel.

For the leaders of Israel's Labour-Likud coalition, the exposure of the LEKEM espionage unit in the ministry of defence called for unprecedented unity. They knew that only the tip of a 32-year-old espionage operation had been exposed. Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin resisted a golden opportunity to pin responsibility on former defence ministers Ariel Sharon and Moshe Arens, under whom LEKEM had operated during the governments of Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir. President Chaim Herzog, who could appoint yet another investigative commission to whitewash Israeli violations of international law, was instead busy issuing denials of BBC reports that he had been guilty of espionage and subversion in Washington during 1953-54.

Unlike the two "scientific attaches" who were spirited back to Israel after Pollard's arrest, Herzog had been able in 1954 to escape questioning and expulsion by subverting a State Department official who tipped him off before President Eisenhower could declare Israel's future U.N. representative and president *persona non grata*. Upon learning that the FBI was investigating charges that he had attempted to recruit an Arab soldier in Washington during 1953, Colonel Herzog impounded the Israel-Jordan affairs officer in the department of state, Fred E. Waller, to keep him advised the status of the FBI's investigation.

As an adviser on the Arab and Israeli armed forces to Major-General Arthur G. Trudeau, head of U.S. army intelligence, I was enjoined to monitor Herzog's contacts with U.S. officials. By November 1953, Fred Waller had shown his hand by asking me to inquire about how much the army knew of Herzog's alleged attempt to recruit the Jordanian soldier. A week later, Waller told me that he knew of the department of justice's recommendation to declare Herzog *persona non grata* and said that he was writing a position opposing it.

At a cocktail party given by Waller on 29 December, he arranged for Colonel Herzog to meet me in my new capacity as an adviser to the secretary of defence on arms aid in the Middle East. That night the man in charge of Israel-Jordan affairs in the State Department went even further. In my presence he told Esther Herlitz of the Israeli embassy that he had been aware that a soldier at an Arab embassy had been on Israel's payroll for years. It was my report of that evening's events that lent urgency to the process of expelling Chaim Herzog.

So restricted was this planning that a courier was sent to Karachi in April 1954 with a comprehensive affidavit for me to sign while I was on a mission to survey Pakistan's arms requirements. By then, Israeli intelligence had penetrated our government to the extent that not even the military attaches who witnessed my signature could read what I'd sworn to. It was not until September 1954, however, after Waller had been dismissed from the foreign service, that Shimon Peres, director general of Israel's ministry of defence, decided that Herzog would have to be replaced by his opposite number in London, Colonel Katril Salman. Until today, those portions of the FBI report of 13 January, 1954, to which my initial statement was appended, dealing with Herzog's espionage and subversion, have been expurgated on grounds of "an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of another person" — the current president of Israel.



The U.S.-Israeli cover up of Herzog's spying started on 4 February 1985 after *New York* magazine published an item saying that my next book would document my role in his exposure. Before its publication, Herzog denied any recruitment of informants. Thanks to the U.S. Department of Justice and the CIA, Herzog's recent disclaimer may again be accepted and the Pollard incident swept under the rug like the Lavon affair of 1954.

The U.S. justice department's agreement to allow Judge Abraham Sofaer, who presided over Ariel Sharon's libel suit against *Time*, to head the American team sent to Israel to question the three Israelis identified with suborning Pollard's treason, will facilitate a

whitewash. He heard Sharon swear in a federal district court that he was "a man of honour," and that he had merely followed orders when he led the raid on Qibya on 14-15 October 1953 in which 53 unarmed Arab men, women, and children were slaughtered.

The role of Judge Sofaer, a Jew who makes an annual pilgrimage to Israel, in framing questions about Sharon's role in the Sabra and Shatila massacres enabled the former defence minister to get away unchallenged with his claim that the American magazine was practising a "blood libel" against Jews.

This caught the notice of the State Department, and Judge Sofaer became its legal adviser in obtaining the grand jury indictment of the hijackers of TWA 847 so that they might be brought to the United States and tried. Presumably they could be kidnapped, as was Adolf Eichmann, and brought before a U.S. court. The Department of Justice is unwilling to say that this principle will apply in the cases of the two Israeli "scientific attaches" who handled Pollard.

Now the chickens have come home to roost for Chaim Herzog. If the U.S. government wants to prove how Israeli espionage in America really started, all it has to do is release the full text of the FBI report and stop protecting Herzog's privacy — Middle East International, London.

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Few financial worries in Brunei but politics begin to stir

By Kenneth L. Whiting
The Associated Press

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN. Brunei — Oil and gas exports that provide most of Brunei's income have slumped, but few people in this sultanate on the island of Borneo seem concerned.

Bruneians pay no income tax; their medical and dental care, as well as most of their education, are free; and they can get interest-free loans to buy houses, cars and televisions. Gasoline, trips to Mecca for the Muslim majority and burial costs are subsidised.

Nonetheless, the government plans to further develop the economy and opposition is stirring to the absolute rule of Sultan Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah.

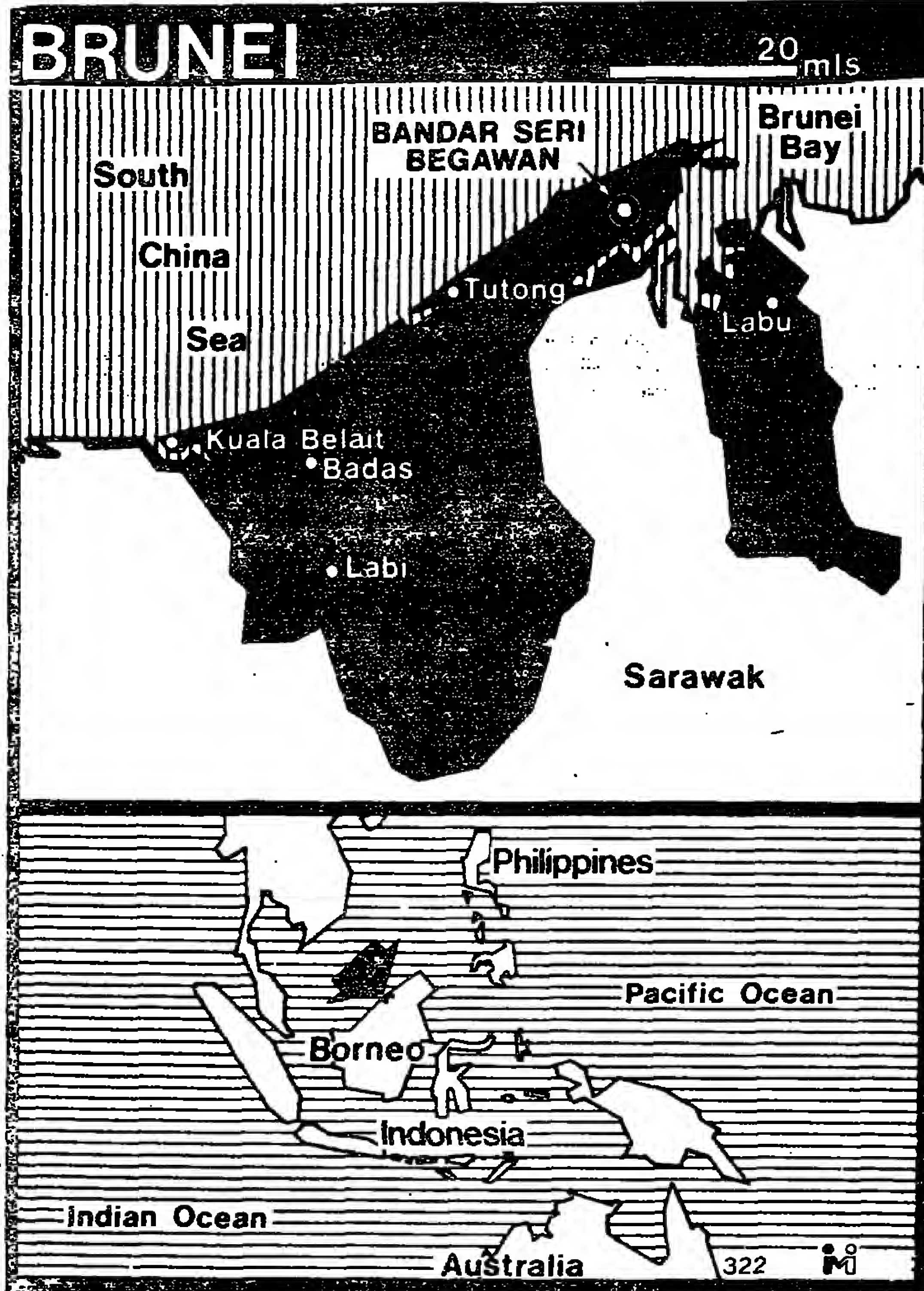
Some call Brunei the "shellfish state" because of the wealth that flows from Brunei shell petroleum, a 50-50 joint venture between the government and Royal Dutch Shell. Average income of the sultanate's 200,000 inhabitants is among the highest in the world, a per capita gross national product of 44,605 Brunei dollars (\$21,140).

There is no trade deficit, no national debt and no balance of payments problem. The budget is always balanced.

The economy is simple: petroleum and natural gas shipments make up 99 per cent of exports and 72 per cent of gross domestic product. Trade, banking, construction and farming account for the rest.

The government is even simpler: Brunei is one of the world's few absolute monarchies. Secular, religious and military power rests with Sir Hassanal Bolkiah, 39, a hereditary ruler who functions as head of state as well as prime minister and also holds the finance and internal affairs portfolios.

His father, the former sultan, is defense minister; a brother is in charge of foreign affairs; and another brother heads the culture, youth and sports ministry. The three other ministries are in the hands of non-royalty.



But change seems on the way in both the economy and politics of this 5,765-square kilometre territory that gained full independence from Britain two years ago.

A five-year development plan announced last month is designed mainly to steer the economy away from near total dependence on oil and gas. Development minister Pehin Abdul Rahman Taib told a news conference that 3.7 billion Brunei dollars (\$1.8 billion, is allocated for diversification and for welfare purposes through 1990.

Diplomatic observers say Brunei hopes to use foreign reserves estimated at more than \$17 billion to become a regional financial centre. They said there are vague plans to use vast reserves of high-grade silica to develop a microchip and optics industry.

Crude oil production peaked at 240,000 barrels a day in 1979. The government says production has been trimmed to 150,000 barrels a day, but oil industry sources said it is less than 130,000 barrels.

Revenue from oil and gas fell from \$4.6 billion in 1980 to an estimated \$2.7 billion last year.

The sultan, educated at Britain's Sandhurst military academy, is rated as the richest man in the world by the Guinness Book of Records because Brunei's oil income and reserves are "effectively at his disposal."

Sir Hassanal Bolkiah does things in a big way. The polo-playing potentate lives in a 1,788-room palace that cost at least \$300 million. It has 388 more rooms than the Vatican and makes the White House and Buckingham Palace seem shabby. He invited 10,000 people to help celebrate his last birthday.

In 1982 the sultan bought a cattle ranch in northern Australia that is 95 square kilometres bigger than Brunei itself. Last year he acquired London's swank Dorchester hotel for \$56 million.

Shortly after independence in 1984, the sultan was quoted as saying that his subjects enjoyed "a good life. Why should they want more?" political parties might make life difficult for them, he said.

However, four months ago businessmen led by Abdul Latif Bin Awang Chucho registered the Brunei National Democratic Party (BNDP). The party's founder said the BNDP would seek a constitutional Islamic monarchy governed on democratic principles but had no immediate plans to "wrest power from the sultan or pressure him into calling for elections. There will be time for all that...our first task is to build up grassroots support."

In an apparent attempt to limit the party, the prime minister's department has warned civil servants to refrain from any political activity or face disciplinary action. The government is Brunei's largest employer with more than 31,000 civil servants, about 40 per cent of the total work force.

The BNDP is the first party registered since British forces crushed an uprising by followers of the now-outdated Parti Rakyat Brunei (PRB) in 1962. The PRB won all 16 seats in an election for the legislative council that year and looked forward to forming a government.

PRB leaders rebelled when the sultan of the time refused to convene the council. The state of emergency declared then technically remains in force.

Brunei, which has been self-governing since 1959, never was a full British colony. The Anglo-Brunei treaty of 1905 established a protectorate, and a British "resident" was posted to what was then called Brunei Town the following year.

The capital had its name changed in 1970 to Bandar Seri Begawan, an honourific title for former sultan Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin who abdicated in 1967 in favour of his son.

End of martial law in Pakistan

By Shabbir Hussain

THE MARTIAL law lived a shadowy and almost symbolic existence till its end. By the end of the year, its coffin was lowered into its grave and hopefully it shall lie buried for ever. The fourth in a series, it was the only martial law to end in a voluntary and peaceful transfer of power to elected representatives. No upheaval, not even a disturbance of the routine pattern of life. Several questions may, therefore, be asked relating to this unique martial law: Why did it force itself? How did it work, particularly during the last nine months of its life? What did it achieve and what did it fail to achieve?

Historic background to this martial law is the Pakistan's "time of troubles" which started in mid 1968 when Yahya Khan stepped in with his martial law that culminated in the dismemberment of

the distant eastern half of the country.

Eventually, a "new" Pakistan came into being. "Socialistic therapy" was resorted to relieve the pain of amputation by democratically elected government. But democracy proved to be illusory and socialism was breadless. To silence the voice of protest, imprisonment, murder and rape were employed. A time came when nobody trusted the "people's regime" and the country teetered toward civil war. General Zia Ul Haq, the army commander-in-chief ousted premier Bhutto whose regime was alleged to have rigged the elections which the opposition *on mass* had refused to accept.

The general had several lessons to learn from national history to avoid its repetition; transfer of power to civilians must be a planned and gradual process with full agreement on both sides on terms of transfer; the electoral process

must be clean and passionless and the electoral base must not be narrow; ideological foundation of democracy must be Islamic and not alien.

Islam has now emerged as an edifice of national ideological education to the same extent as the one to which we bade the final farewell the other day. By administering democracy in small and easily digestible doses, starting from local bodies and nominated Majlis-i-Shooras. General Zia Ul Haq established a graduate school in democratic self-management. Higher rate of economic growth under martial law gave the country a source of general well-being and stability. Low inflation rate and improved export performance were two tangible achievements of Pakistan's economy during this period.

Pakistan can also feel proud of its role in international diplomacy in recent times. When Indian Premier frowned and cringed,

the Pakistani President served him a relaxing smile; when Iranians and Iraqis fought, he was foremost in the line of peacemakers; when the Soviets stepped closer, he did not lose nerve.

The new civilian government headed by Premier Mohammad Khan Junejo has thus inherited both external goodwill and international stability to sustain and enlarge democracy in Pakistan. The record of the new government is also good as its last nine months in office were not marred by any serious crisis and it succeeded in bringing to an end the martial law rule in the country.

Hopefully the new democratic challenge, and the new opportunity, exist not only for those who presently wield power but also for those who aspire to replace them in future.

The writer is the Third Secretary at the Embassy of Pakistan in Amman.

LETTERS

Know thy enemy

To the Editor

I AM a regular reader of the Jordan Times, and I enjoy reading your local as well as your articles from abroad, particularly those on page 5.

Normally, the articles on that page are interesting, informative, and well chosen, presenting an amusing, an important or an odd item or event concerning some country or another. These items generally tend to keep us abreast of what is, of some significance, happening abroad.

However, one item in particular in your Jan. 10 issue was most irrelevant and particularly uninteresting to us in the Arab World, as well as seeming an unwarranted piece of "propaganda," no matter how you try to justify it. This was an article on some senator playing matchmaker to Washington Jewish singles!

Is this the only article your editor could find most newsworthy of printing, among the tens of articles at least you must be receiving from Reuters and the Associated Press etc.?

Please, do reconsider your tastes, and be more fair to our interests.

S. Denny
P.O. Box 950658
Amman



Talking straight
Marwan Muasher

Reflections on the proposed electoral law

THE government has just finished a draft for a new electoral law to be presented to parliament for discussion. While details of the new law are not yet fully available, some of its highlights were published in local newspapers last week.

The amendment of the present electoral law is something that has been long overdue, given the social and political changes that have occurred in Jordan since the present law came into effect in 1960. This is why it is imperative that we take a hard look at the proposed law, and give it the serious attention it deserves, as it will determine to a large extent both the composition and effectiveness of our parliament for years to come.

The Prime Minister presents

draft laws to parliament, which has the right to approve, amend or reject them ... (Article 91).

The proposition to increase the number of deputies from 60 to 130 is certainly healthy. It would result in a larger number of ideas being circulated in parliament, and the deputies would represent larger sectors of the country. We only hope that the distribution of the 130 deputies would be made fairly and scientifically and in accordance with the geographical distribution and the concentration of the populace.

The lowering of the voting age from 20 to 19 is also another step in the right direction. The majority of the population in Jordan is in the young age brackets and the lowering of the voting age, therefore,

would ensure that a larger proportion of the country is given a chance to be represented.

The finest achievement of the new law, however, is the requirement of residence for a minimum number of years for one to vote in a particular region. The present law allows people to vote in any region of their choosing, even if they do not live in that region. Tribal affiliations in the past ran high. Some candidates running for regions where their tribe came from, but of which they knew little, and voters, supposedly of that region when they were not, bringing people to parliament without necessarily ever knowing the region they were supposedly voting for.

If approved, this article would represent one of the few serious attempts to abolish

unfavourable tribalistic behavioural patterns in Jordan. It would ensure a better identification between the candidate and his constituents, and would serve for a better knowledge by the candidate of his region and the problems it faces.

The subject of particular concern to me is that dealing with campaigning. The provisions in the present law dealing with it make a mockery of the democratic process, in that it forbids candidates from giving any public rallies, or appearing on TV or radio, or being affiliated politically or ideologically in any way. People are supposed to elect candidates on vague terms often referred to as personal integrity or personal ability, without any proper screening to

introduce the electorate to the candidates' views, how they perform under pressure, how they present their case, and other necessary attributes for any person seeking public office.

I expect the new electoral law to be more forthcoming about this point, even though I believe it will still be in the end less than satisfactory. This is the article that should draw the greatest amount of debate, and parliamentarians should not shy away from their responsibilities.

The argument that has so often been used by the government is that one needs to regulate this right to campaign for fear that the tribal, social, and religious balance in the country be upset. The picture that is painted is that of can-

didates sparing no chance to attack others' values indiscriminately if given the chance.

That, to me, is an absurd argument. To guard against those who violate others' rights does not mean to take those rights away from all citizens. Citizens should be free to exercise their right to voice their opinions. In case of abuses, there are courts to deal with such matters.

Rightly or wrongly, one cannot help but feel that the government often uses this argument as a tool to allow it to silence those who disagree with its policies. Thus, in the name of order, one is not allowed to publicly criticise official policy.

It seems needless to say that if we are to have a proper parliament, if we are to abolish

unfavourable aspects of our society's tribalism, and if we are to respect our representatives, we have to make sure that every step is taken to ensure that citizens have more and better information about candidates in order to allow them make sound decisions about who they want to represent them in parliament. Anything less than that will result in less than a truly representative parliament.

The essence of any serious amendments to the electoral law is that we either allow our candidates every possible way to make their views known thoroughly, and allow citizens to scrutinise candidates carefully, or we continue to try to fool ourselves by claiming we have a parliament that truly answers the wishes of Jordanians.

Preview of channel 6

Mirage kicks off the week on JTV

By J.H. Boteler

YES, indeed they do. Mirage, Jordan's very own rock group, are the stars in tonight's Varieties programme. Footage taken from their concert at the Palace of Culture, as well as video clips filmed around Jordan provide fifty minutes of foot-tapping fun. Not only that but they will also be packing out the Concord cinema for four gigs, from January 30th to February 2nd, and are even going on tour elsewhere in the Arab world. But if you think that tonight gives you a chance to make your own home video, and thereby avoid shelling out on the tape in the shops, be ye warned that their tour de force — both visually and musically — "Palestine, Cry For Freedom" is not being screened tonight, which is what I call a pretty smart move. But there's still plenty to enjoy tonight and by the way, the particularly gorgeous looking nerd in the audience is your reviewer!

Comedies

I am overwhelmed by the sheer power of this column. No sooner do I lag off "Bottle Boys" than it gets unceremoniously yanked off the screen. This may be "self-delusion but, on the other hand, it may not, so I will turn my gaze on "Mind Your Language" (tonight). This show makes me feel a bit like a "mediocre" — "The idea is fine, but do all the foreign students have to be such stereotypes? There's the young, sex-mad Italian; the older, but equally sex-mad Spaniard; a Chinaman who rants and raves over Communist ideology; a Pakistani and an Indian who both speak in ridiculous sing-song accents; an assortment — French/Maltese/Scandinavian — of "our" various and scatter-brained females; and lastly, a dour and stolid German. But I suppose it could be worse: it could have an oil-rich Arab; and it could be screened just before "End Of Empire". This week it looks as if the students are going to win a collective fortune on the pools. Nail biting stuff. Tomorrow (Sunday), has the deferred first episode of "The Cabbage Patch Kids", entitled "A Night Away". Discom in the home looms as Tony Watson has to attend a conference in Birmingham and take his attractive new secretary, Amanda, with him. Tuesday has "That's My Boy", in which the TV set blows up, and the repairman arrives when Ida is alone in the flat; it transpires that the repairman is a thief. "Dying To Meet You" is this Wednesday's episode of "Three's Company" in which Jack is threatened by a jealous boyfriend. Larry stages a mock funeral but it all goes wrong. Thursday has a heart-rending episode of "Emergency Room", in which Dr. Shindler's son has to decide whether he wants to live with dad, mum, or give up on both of them and live with friends. Finally, Mr. Belvedere on Friday, in which the hero sides with the children against dad over the issue of their hobbies.

Documentaries

Who he visited England Gandhi was asked by a reporter: "What do you think of English civilisation?" "I think it would be a very good idea," That could serve as a coda to not only the current subject of "End Of Empire" (Sunday), but the whole series. This week looks at the final, disastrous phase of British rule in India. In February, 1947, Prime Minister Clement Attlee announced that Britain would leave the subcontinent by June 1948, and he appointed Lord Louis Mountbatten as Viceroy. Although all of the parties had reluctantly agreed to the need for a partition of the country into two separate states, India and Pakistan, Mountbatten still could not get the Indian leaders to accept his proposals for the "transfer of power. Also, the tide of violence



Wael Abu Nuwar, Khaled Bayyat, Najla Madani and Jamal Taher are "Mirage" tonight at 9:10

Drama and detectives

was rising. Then, on 3rd of June, 1947, Mountbatten suddenly announced that England would quit India in August of that year, a mere ten weeks away. In effect, in order to ensure that England left while it still had some vestige of control, all the difficult details about partition were being left to the fledgling native government to work out. Independence day itself found millions in Bengal and the Punjab not knowing what country they were living in. About ten million refugees fled in both directions, and up to a million of them were slaughtered in the wave of violence that followed. A complete and utter cock-up; no wonder this episode is entitled "Divide And Quit".

In a more light-hearted vein, Monday has "Starring The Actors" at 8:30. (And you thought that I'd missed it out in the comedy section!) This 13 part series interviews leading actors and actresses and gets them to explain how they work and prepare for a role. Using film-clips from the subjects best-known films this series examines the elements, planned and unplanned, that go into each performance. Surprising anecdotes are also in store as the actors speak candidly about their experiences on the set. This week's subject is Julie Andrews, and among the film-clips are "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music". Wednesday's documentary is "Conquest", which examines the life-style of Alaskan wolves, their breeding habits, their migratory patterns, and other such stuff.

Tonight

Mind Your Language..... 8:30
Varieties: Mirage..... 9:10
Feature film:
An Invasion Of Privacy..... 10:20

Sunday

The Cabbage Patch..... 8:30
End Of Empire..... 9:10
Dempsey And Makepeace..... 10:20

Monday

Starring The Actors..... 8:30
Teaser Is The Night..... 9:10
Dallas..... 10:20

Tuesday

That's My Boy..... 8:30
A Fortunate Life..... 9:10
The Equaliser..... 10:20

Wednesday

Three's Company..... 8:30
Documentary: Conquest..... 9:10
Falcon Crest..... 10:20

Thursday

Emergency Room..... 8:30
Return To Eden..... 9:10
Feature film:
The Story Of Louis Pasteur..... 10:20

Friday

Mr. Belvedere..... 8:30
The Far Pavilions..... 9:10
Hunter..... 10:20

Soaps

In Dallas, (Monday), Lucy has found true love at last and Pam is unwittingly nurturing a viper in her bosom, (or in her hotel room at any rate), who is preparing to give JR the lowdown on Bobby. Two interesting little facts about Bobby were established last week. He has the local sheriff on his payroll, and can get him to turn up on cue at pre-arranged "fender-benders," and he is also a very jealous guy, prone to acts of violence when anyone else looks at Pam. Meanwhile JR is facing a very large bill in return for him receiving the money owed on his Cuban oil shipment, and both his ex-partner and Holly have sworn to exact a terrible revenge on him. (Optimistic dreamers). Not only is it in Texas that sweetness and love reign supreme. Over in California, at Falcon Crest, (Wednesday), the evil Doc, tired for the third week in a row, to murder Chase. He has an odds-on chance of success this time though, since he is about to operate in order to remove the bullet in Chase's back. Will his hand slip? Will adorable Angela Channing have cause to throw a party? Whatever happens I am sure that the wine that comes out of this particular vineyard is the sort of stuff that the Borgias have gone for in a big way. On Thursday we return to Eden and look in on another happy family. Stephanie gets a bedside visit from her loving sister, (no doubt totting a crocodile-skin handbag) and the boyfriend, the Slimy Limey, tries to muscle in on the board. Don't these programmes make you realise how dull, boring and mundane your own home-life is? Put some spice into your existence: stab a relative in the back.

I think that everyone in Tender Is The Night is completely loopy; totally stark raving bonkers. Nicole is certifiable; Abe North has blood-filled visions of sawing waters in half; Mr. McKisco is a drunken imbecile who insists on fighting duels for very good reason; Mrs. Speers appears to think that the best thing that could happen to her daughter would be for her to suffer a broken heart; and finally there is Campion, a panicky old queen. Ever. Dick, originally so straightforward, has taken to saying of violence that followed. A complete and utter cock-up; no wonder this episode is entitled "Divide And Quit".

Consider Bert Facey's life so far: father dead, abandoned by mother, treks across Australia to a played-out gold-mine, toils for hours in the bush under a relentless sun, starved, maltreated and ultimately flogged without mercy by a grog-crazed giant. Poor old Bert. If this is fortune, give me disaster. Things do appear to be looking up for Bert this week, when he goes to work for the Phillips, a childless couple, who like him so much that they decide to adopt him. But a terrifying confrontation with a beligerent pig, and his mother's refusal to condone the adoption mean that the Phillips' attitude towards Bert changes drastically, and gloom becomes the order of the day once again. And if you think that life has been too kind to our hero so far, you just wait. Friday continues with The Far Pavilions, a far cry from the grim realities of "Divide And Quit," and in which lantern-jawed Ben Cross continues to act very nobly.

As for detectives, Sunday has Dempsey And Makepeace, in which the latter goes undercover and becomes a gangster's moll in order to collar a vicious gang of jewel-thieves. Keep your fingers crossed, but with any luck Tuesday should see the pilot episode of The Equaliser, in which we find out why Robert McCall, (Edward Woodward), chucks up his nice job with the CIA and decides instead to wander about the streets of New York blowing away all and sundry, helped only by Lieutenant Jefferson Burnett, of the 82nd Police precinct. If it fails to turn up, however, I suppose we will just have to soldier on with "Murder, She Wrote." (How many episodes of this are there?). "A Long Way From L.A." is the title of Friday's episode of Hunter, which stars Jack Nicholson and Elizabeth Taylor. (Well, if not them in person, certainly their dopplegangers). Some good lines in this, and heaps and heaps of extreme violence. I suppose it has been designed to ensure that eve-

ryone starts the working week in a fighting mood.

Feature films

Tonight Valerie Harper and Cliff Young star in An Invasion Of Privacy. I am informed that the story-line of this consists of a mother and daughter who go off to a far-flung tropical island, to explore or do research or something, and promptly get raped by the natives. (I'm sorry, but that is what I've been told it's about). Thursday night's offering is altogether more staid and civilised, the 1936 classic, The Story Of Louis Pasteur. (Unless, as has happened before, it turns out to be a made-for-TV remake). Paul Muni stars as the eminent 19th century French scientist who overcame various obstacles in finding cures for lots of nasty diseases, and invented modern milk. When it came out it caused a sensation and started a trend, since it was the first example of Hollywood bringing schoolbook history to box-office life. I end by quoting two contemporary reviews. "What should be vital and arresting has been made hollow and dull ... we are tendered something that is bright and starchy for something out of life" (Otis Ferguson). "More exciting than any gangster melodrama" (C.A. Lejeune). You pay your money and you take your choice.

High prices for the high life in London

London restaurants are under fire for high prices and poor value. Nick Bunker investigates the economics behind the steep bills.

LONDON — My wife and I were halfway through our bottle of Gewurztraminer 1981 (less opulent than '83), and I was nibbling at the trout mousse inside by smoked salmon, when she paused between mouthfuls.

"There's grit in these mussels," she said, poking with a silver fork at her £4.50 (\$6.40) portion of mussels a la creme d'ail.

Fortunately, that was the only blemish on an otherwise acceptable dinner. Fortunately, because the meal cost us, or rather the FT, more than £66 (\$94.40) for two.

The scene was La Reulle, a 13-month-old restaurant in a side road off London's Kensington High Street: the kind of restaurant whose pastels and decor features a Degas corner, hung with Degas drawings, and whose recent visitors have included the Duchess of Beaufort and Mr. Peter Miller, the chairman of Lloyd's.

La Reulle was launched with the specific aim of winning a place among the top six or so French restaurants in Britain.

It has yet to show a profit for its owner, the nearby 830-bed London Tara Hotel, itself a subsidiary of Aer Lingus, the Irish state-owned airline which in the 1970s began diversifying into the hotel and catering industry.

The restaurant's success in realising the annual profits of up to £70,000 hoped for by Mr. Eoin Dillon, the London Tara's manager, will depend on two factors: the chef, Mr. Dominique Orizet, and the economics of the London restaurant business.

High property prices, rents, property taxes, the price of ingredients and the influence of expensive accounts have helped produce a situation in which "the cost of eating out at the top end of the market now beggars belief," according to Mr. Drew Smith, editor of the Good Food Guide, writing in its 1986 edition.

La Reulle is far from being the most expensive; a recent, admittedly excellent, birthday dinner at Rue St. Jacques, near Tottenham Court Road, cost a couple £97, and bills of more than £40 a head are now frequent.

But some observers feel that economic pressures lead too many restaurants less dedicated than La Reulle to skimp on quality to maximise earnings.

"It's unfair to have a great big thwack at the catering trade for its high prices. It's not their fault if their costs are so high," says Mr. Smith. But, he says, it is not "extremely likely" that diners-out in expensive London restaurants will find themselves paying over the odds for bland, mediocre cooking.

Mr. Dillon can set out the difficulties faced by a restaurant like La Reulle. Market research before it opened in October 1984 showed that the kind of customers aimed for would pay at least £24 or £25 per head for dinner. At that price, he estimated, he could make a decent profit if La Reulle opened five days a week (to save on staff costs for weekend work) and served 60 covers nightly, yielding an annual turnover approaching £400,000, before allowing for extra lunchtime trade.

Mr. Georges Dugarin, La Reulle's manager, reckons that a new restaurant might need a year and a half to make its mark and break even.

"At first, I suppose we just wanted to stick a toe in the market, and initially there was a flurry of curiosity, and we did very well," says Mr. Dillon. But by January 1985 La Reulle was serving only 10 or 11 covers each evening — prompting him to step up promotional activity, hiring a public

relations consultant who sought advertising and editorial coverage in publications such as Vogue, House and Garden, or the new Debut magazine.

Recently, the number of covers each evening has risen to an average of between 30 and 50. The kitchen, staffed by a chef, a sous-chef and three commis-chefs, serves around 80 meals a day, including lunches.

For the moment, Mr. Dillon is content to sustain losses, confident that by April La Reulle will be making money. A breakdown of his costs shows that a restaurant without the backing of an organisation like the London Tara might be less sanguine.

In theory, says Mr. Dillon, about 36 per cent of a high-class restaurant's costs should be for food, and 30 per cent for labour. Mr. Orizet's salary has not been disclosed, but a top French chef in London might expect to make £15,000. A commis-chef could take home £120 a week, plus a share in service charges, and other extras.

Cutlery and linen along will account for another 7 or 8 per cent of costs.

That leaves a gross profit of around 25 per cent, before allowing for overheads, depreciation and interest payments: which are where the problems lurk for some owners.

The London Tara paid about £160,000 for a short-term, renewable lease on premises which have housed three other restaurants in the last 25 years.

The figure might have been at least £200,000 for space on Kensington High Street. Mr. Dillon spent £60,000 on redecoration; it might have been far more if he had gone to an outside company instead of using existing hotel staff as designers.

Other restaurateurs, like Mr. Nico Ladenis, the chef and former proprietor of the Michelin-rated Chez Nico in Battersea, have quit

because they could not borrow the estimated £750,000 needed to finance a new West End restaurant.

Part of his problem was "the Michelin syndrome." Winning three stars in the guide can generate enormous profits for an owner; the attempt to do so might bankrupt him.

"Once you have one Michelin star, you want to get two," says Mr. Ladenis. "But once you have two the ballgame becomes very big business indeed."

He realised it was time to migrate to Shiffield, in Berkshire, when in an attempt to expand from his cramped quarters south of the river he looked at former bank premises in Great Portland Street. A lease on 3,150 square metres would have set him back £25,000 a year in rent (with a five-yearly review), and £10,000 in property taxes. Conversion might cost him another £200,000. Add to that the cost of ingredients. Mr. Ladenis has had to scrub from his menu dishes like turbot, after paying £64 for a single fish from Brixham.

Where does this leave consumers — who pay the price of London property-inflated restaurant bills? In most cases, it leaves them relying on expense accounts.

Even at La Reulle, with its relative price advantage, Mr. Dugarin estimates that 70 or 80 per cent of diners are expecting their companies to pick up the bill.

On one hand, expense accounts provide a steady stream of customers — keeping afloat the best eating places; on the other, says Mr. Smith, business diners may show insufficient concern about value for money.

In the meantime, his advice is simple: "Go to the Rolls-Royce, like Gavorche or Tante Claire, because the Ford Cortina may be just as expensive — and not worth the money" — Financial Times news feature.

Other restaurateurs, like Mr. Nico Ladenis, the chef and former proprietor of the Michelin-rated Chez Nico in Battersea, have quit

British press on verge of biggest expansion this century

By Alan Elmer

Review

LONDON — Britain's newspaper industry is poised for its biggest expansion this century after struggling unsuccessfully for years to overcome trade union opposition to technological change.

At least three new national dailies using modern printing technology are scheduled to appear this year and there are also plans for a London evening newspaper and a left-wing weekly.

Few disagree that most of the credit belongs to Eddie Shah, a north England businessman who won national prominence two years ago when he engaged in a protracted and occasionally violent dispute with a powerful print union and won.

At that time, Shah, 41, was publisher of a little-known but highly profitable string of local newspapers which were financed by advertising and distributed free.

In March, he will become the country's newest press baron by launching "Today," Britain's first seven-day-a-week national newspaper printed in colour and employing the latest technology.

Shah's success in breaking the stranglehold of the print unions by setting up his own presses outside Britain's traditional newspaper centre in Fleet Street and signing a no-strike agreement with a small, right-wing electricians' union has opened the way for others to follow.

"The British press now has the opportunity to leap from the archaic, labour intensive technology to a new, capital-intensive technology," the Economist magazine said in a recent editorial.

Traditional Fleet Street bosses like Australian-born magnate Rupert Murdoch and Czechoslovakian-born millionaire Robert Maxwell, owners of the country's two most popular tabloids, were quick to exploit the threat posed by Shah to attempt to foist new technology on their unwilling printers.

Maxwell, whose mass-

circulation "Daily Mirror, was making ever-increasing losses, embarked on a series of confrontations with the unions, eventually forcing them to accept the elimination of 2,100 jobs.

He now plans to launch a new, colour daily in March to compete directly with Shah.

Murdoch, now a U.S. citizen, is still struggling to gain union consent to shift printing of Britain's top-selling newspaper, The Sun, to a modern plant outside Fleet Street which has been standing idle since being built seven years ago.

According to Andreas

Witham-Smith, one of three former senior editors on the Daily Telegraph who recently left to set up their own "serious" daily, Shah has transformed the newspaper industry's image in the eyes of potential investors in the city of London, Britain's financial centre.

"Without Eddy, we would not have been able to raise the money (for the new publication). He changed the climate," Witham-Smith said.

His colleague Matthew Symonds added: "The city now sees newspapers as a sunrise, not a sunset industry."

Until now, Fleet Street new-

spapers have been printed using obsolete type-setting techniques which were overtaken 25 years ago by photo-setting.

Restrictive agreements with two powerful print unions, the National Graphical Association (NCA) and Sogat '82, prevented direct computer setting by journalists and use of video screens.

The unions reserved, and frequently invoked, their right to halt the presses whenever there was a dispute with management.

If selling newspapers was the only measure of well-being, Fleet Street would have been a success story long ago.

Legends that make sense

By Carlos Cisternas

The Associated Press

CHILOE ISLAND, Chile — The people of this rustic archipelago tell vivid tales of ghost ships, sea lions men, fertility goddesses, witches in caves and evil elves who seduce young girls.

They are mythological creatures of Indian legend, well known to the 110,000 farmers and fishermen living along the inland waterways of these 33 islands in southern Chile.

But few talk about them to outsiders because islanders are sensitive to ridicule of their beliefs.

"Their legends aren't anything strange or mysterious once you understand why people have told and retold them over the generations," said Jorge Negron, who has been researching the legend for 12 years. "They reflect standards of conduct and punishment necessary for a harmonious life."

Negron, a former forest ranger, moved here two decades ago and is writing a book that tries to make sense of the legends.

As an example, he cited old Huenchula, the sea goddess who punishes islanders when they do wrong. She manifests herself to the islanders through the sound of the waves. When islanders use shovels and other implements in-

stead of their bare hands to gather shellfish, she becomes irritated and punishes them.

A decade or so ago, Negron said, Huenchula got so angry about overfishing that she withheld the sea's abundance for three years and the local economy faltered.

"The myth has a rational explanation," he said. "It's what we now know as ecology."

Chilotes, as the islanders are called, descend from the Choncho and Huilliche Indians who, according to archaeologists, settled here at least 5,000 years ago. Chiloe, the largest island, is pronounced Chee-Lo-Way and means "land of the seagulls" in the native tongue.

The Indian language has given way to Spanish, but Chiloe remains a world apart from the rest of Chile.

Chilotes fish, farm, raise sheep, grind flour, cut timber and knit wool, maintaining near self-sufficiency in food, shelter and clothing through a barter economy.

Most of the islands lack electricity and telephones. A letter from Santiago, 1,300 km to the north, can take 20 days to arrive.

In recent decades, the arrival of tourists and transistor radios has

only cracked Chiloe's isolation. A transistor radio, for example, brings news from Santiago, Chile's capital, but islanders say they have to trade about 30 fish to obtain one.

"The islanders are stubborn about keeping their beliefs to themselves, because their contacts with outsiders have not been all good," Negron said. "They have been degraded as ignorant and superstitious."

A recent visitor who asked the meaning of the ghost ship Caluche learned how secretive the Chilotes can be about their legends.

It was a moonlit outing in Tiburcio Turemas's fragile wooden sailboat. The dark, wiry old man had invited the visitor to accompany him on the water with his son and two neighbours. Then, amid laughter and mock fright, the four islanders fended off questions about the Caluche.

The legendary vessel lurks in the fog, cruising at fantastic speeds above and below the water. Its crew of witches lure boatmen with their melodies and then ensnare them.

Turema declined to say whether he believed the legend. "Maybe it is you who is trying to bewitch us," he told the visitor.

Becker knocks Wilander out of Masters tourney

NEW YORK (R) — Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, blending an awesome power game with touch and coolness under pressure, upset Mats Wilander of Sweden 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 Thursday night to gain the semifinals of the \$500,000 Masters tennis championships.

Earlier, Andres Gomez of Ecuador added another chapter to his Masters' Cinderella story when he upset Johan Kriek of the U.S. 6-3, 6-2 to reach the semifinals.

Playing in his first Masters, Becker failed to crack under pressure during a tugging third set in which he and Wilander held serve through the first seven games.

After Wilander squandered a game point in the eighth game, Becker broke service on two errors by the French Open champion, and served out at 15 for the match.

Becker's blockbuster service made the difference in the third set as he yielded only six points on serve in five service games. Wilander, whose service is the most improved facet of his game, also served strongly throughout the final set as he enabled Becker to reach breakpoint only once, in the decisive eighth game.

A magnificent lob winner by the West German in that game turned out to be the crucial point. With game point in hand, Wilander pounded a forehand deep into the left corner and charged the net.

Racing to his left, Becker threw up a desperation backhand lob that fell inches inside the baseline in the left corner for an outright winner that made it deuce. Wilander then drove a backhand long off an attacking forehand by Becker and mis-hit a backhand, enabling Becker to break through.

Becker's victory was his fourth

in a row over the 21-year-old Wilander following the Swede's triumph in their first meeting during the second round of last year's French Open championship, which Wilander won for the second time.

The defeat denied Wilander a third successive berth in the Masters semifinals.

Wilander, ranked third in the world, three spots above Becker, took a 2-0 lead in the first set. But Becker broke in the sixth and 10th games — the second time after Wilander had reached game-point to take the set.

A loose service break in the fifth game enabled Wilander to square the brilliantly played match before a crowd of 10,971 at Madison Square Garden.

Becker was the aggressor throughout, attacking the net often and constantly going for winners from the backcourt with his pulsing groundstrokes. Playing more conservatively, Wilander went to the net less frequently, electing instead to try to keep Becker off balance and then going down the line.

A similar pattern prevailed in the Gomez-Kriek match. Kriek was on the offensive throughout, constantly charging the net and trying to end the points quickly while Gomez spent most of the match at the baseline.

Kriek's strategy backfired, however, as he committed a string

of unforced errors, while Gomez played steady tennis throughout.

The 1.95 metre Ecuadorian left-hander never lost his service while breaking Kriek three times. And though he seldom ventured to the net, Gomez invariably scored with volley winners when he did.

Wilander said Becker's service was the key to his victory.

"My first serve didn't work when I really needed it late in the last set," he said. "That was the difference. Boris served much better."

"I think he has improved quite a lot since Wimbledon."

Becker demonstrated his versatility, mixing power with solid groundstrokes.

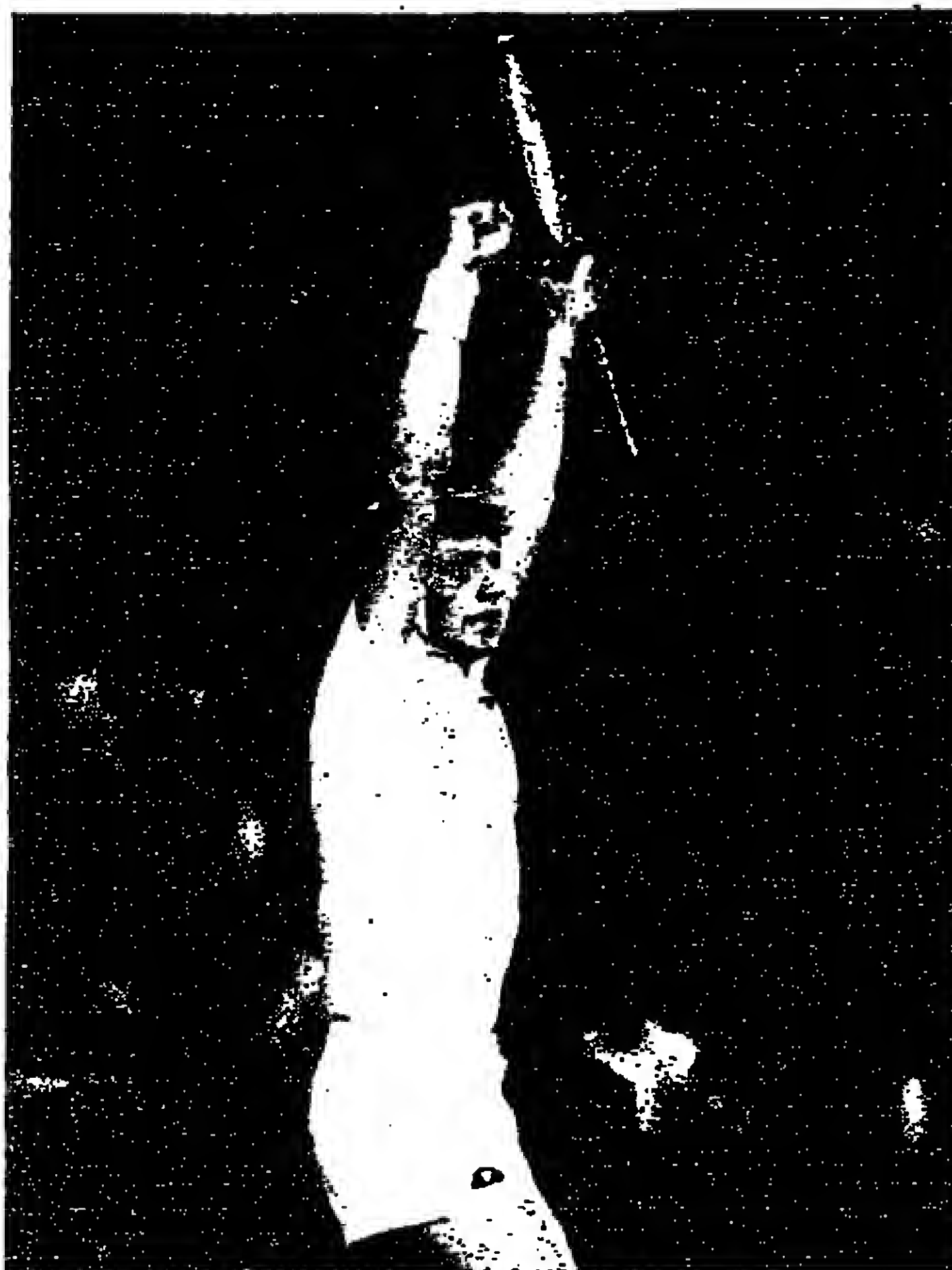
"At the beginning I was trying to stay at the baseline to get a good touch," the West German said. "After I got my touch, I feel better going in (to the net). But I know I can play both baseline and serve and volley."

Gomez, making it to the Masters semifinals for the first time, said he was relaxed because he felt he had nothing to lose.

"It's kind of a strange feeling," the big left-hander said. "I feel like I'm not here. I was not supposed to be in the tournament, so I'm very relaxed and I don't feel any pressure. I've got nothing to lose."

"My picture is not even in the programme, so most of the people don't even know I'm in the tournament," the Ecuadorian said. "So if I lose it's all right."

The semifinals will be played on Saturday afternoon and the final on Sunday afternoon. The winner will receive \$100,000 and the runnerup \$70,000.



A familiar pose: West Germany's 18-year-old Boris Becker has been raking his arms in victory almost every time he steps on the court during the past year. His latest win was an upset of Sweden's Mats Wilander to gain a berth in the semifinals of the Masters tennis tournament in New York. (Photo: Da/Dapa)

Tottenham boss in trouble

LONDON (R) — Hard on the heels of the resignation of Birmingham soccer manager Ron Saunders, Tottenham boss Peter Shreeve looks set for an uncomfortable passage.

After two successive 3-0 home defeats some fans are expected to be calling for changes when Tottenham entertain Manchester City in the English first division Saturday.

As if Shreeve did not have enough problems, he learnt Thursday he will be without Argentine midfielder Ossie Ardiles for between four and six weeks.

Ardiles went into a hospital Friday for a hernia operation after

complaining of stomach strain for the last two weeks. The talented ball-player would have been in the side Saturday but he seems unable to throw off the injury yinx which has plagued him for so long.

Better news for Shreeve is that his expensive signing from Newcastle, Chris Waddle, has recovered much more quickly than expected from an ankle injury and has a good chance of playing.

Manchester City, who are unchanged for the third game in a row, are on the up after a miserable run last year when they went 11 league games without a win.

Boxing championship series to crown "genuine champion"

PERTH (R) — A world heavyweight title fight will be held here in January next year under elimination rounds in the United States, boxing promoters said Friday.

U.S. boxing promoter Don King has signed a contract with two Australian organisations, one of them belonging to millionaire

businessman Alan Bond, to stage the fight at a tourist resort, they told Reuters.

Former Western Australian Premier Ray O'Connor, whose consultancy firm was involved in drafting the contract, said at least six top world heavyweights would contest the title.

He declined to disclose the prize money or other financial arrangements.

1986 rally season opens today

PARIS (R) — West Germany's Walter Roehrl chases an unprecedented fifth victory when the Monte Carlo Rally gets underway Saturday to start the World Championship season.

Roehrl, who has won four times for four different teams, had to settle for second place in his Audi behind Finland's Ari Vatanen last year in a race which propelled Peugeot into a triumphant season culminating with the world team title.

Vatanen is absent this time following a shattering accident in last year's tour of Argentina which nearly cost him his life, but Peugeot are still a powerful force.

World champion Timo Salonen leads the Peugeot attack, which has incorporated another Finn, Juha Kankkunen, and Frenchwoman Michele Mouton, world championship runner-up in 1982 and a signing from Audi where she had become dis-

enchanted by plans for her to race more in America than Europe.

Frenchman Bruno Saby, fifth in Monte Carlo last year, completes the Peugeot 205 Turbo 16 line-up which Roehrl reckons will again be the team to beat.

But after the Peugeot-Audi duels which highlighted much of the 1985 season, this year promises more widespread competition with a growing challenge from Lancia, Austin Metro and Citroen.

Lancia scored a one-two victory in the RAC Rally in Britain last November with their new Delta S4, cars piloted by Finns Henri Toivonen and Markku Alen.

They and Italian colleague Massimo Biasion constitute a strong and experienced team, though it remains to be seen how the new cars cope in the event of snowy conditions on their Monte Carlo debut.

Another largely unknown qua-

ntity are the Austin Rover MG Metros piloted by Tony Pond, who was third behind the Lancias in the RAC race, and fellow Briton Malcolm Wilson.

This 54th edition of the 4,000-km classic marks the first appearance of the two Britons in the Monte Carlo rally. Another untied force will be the Citroen BX 4ATC's in which Frenchmen Jean-Claude Andruet and Philippe Wambargue are driving.

Citroen last won at Monte Carlo in 1966 with Pauli Toivonen, father of Henri, at the wheel.

About 160 cars have been entered this year, over 70 fewer than in 1984 to make organisation easier. The figure is, however, 40 up on 1985 in a bitter wrangle between the organisers and the International Motor Racing Federation (FISA) threatened cancellation of the race up till the last moment.

Maleeva stumbles over Balestrat

WORCESTER, Massachusetts (R) — Fifth-seeded Bulgarian Manuela Maleeva was bounced from the \$250,000 New England Classic by Australian Dianne Balestrat, while Hana Mandlikova and Carling Bassett survived scares Thursday night to advance to the third round.

Balestrat, who had been winless since the Australian Open in November, defeated Maleeva 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 6-1 to score the only upset of the day.

The 11th-seeded Bassett of Canada battled back from a set down and 0-2 in the second by ripping off the next 12 games to oust American Molly Van Nostrand 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.

Qualifier Melissa Gurney, a 16-year-old American, threw a scare into U.S. Open titlist Hana Mandlikova, the second seed, by taking the second set before falling 6-4, 6-7 (4-7), 6-1.

For the rest of the seeds though it was business as usual, as top seed Martina Navratilova of the U.S. and compatriot Pam Shriver, Helena Sukova of Cze-

choslovakia, Australian Wendy Turnbull and Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden all made it through their second-round matches without conceding a set.

Balestrat said it was her biggest victory in more than four years.

"I felt confident going into the match," she said. "She has very good passing shots, and I'm not an exceptional serve and volley player, so I thought I'd stay back and play tough and concentrate very hard on the match."

Maleeva, although disappointed, gave credit to Balestrat.

"It was a match I didn't expect to lose," Maleeva said. "Everything went wrong. I didn't serve as well as I usually do and I didn't really feel my backhand. But I have to say that she played well."

Bassett lost only nine points in winning the last 12 games of her match against Van Nostrand for victory.

"I lost the first set heavily," Bassett said. "It wasn't a close 6-4. Then I got mad at myself and got pumped up and a lot more aggressive."

Mandlikova got a good workout against Gurney, who also took the Czechoslovak to three sets in a match last year.

"It's always difficult in the first match after a break," Mandlikova said of her opening appearance at the tournament. "And Melissa is not a bad player. I think I lost a little bit of concentration in the second set. It was a good match to get under my belt."

Fourth-seeded West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch reached the third round without playing a match. After a first-round bye, her match against American Leigh Thompson was called off when Thompson withdrew with stomach cramps.

In other matches, Navratilova easily beat Italy's Regina Reggi 6-1, 6-2, ninth-seeded Lindqvist beat Kate Gompert of the U.S. 6-2, 6-3, sixth-seeded Sukova won 6-1, 6-1 over American Betsy Nagelsen, 10th seed Turnbull beat American Susan Mascarin 6-3, 6-3, and third-seeded Shriver beat Italy's Sandra Cecchini 6-3, 6-0.

Doubts over McEnroe grow stronger

By Jack Cavanaugh
Reuter

NEW YORK — He still rants and raves at umpires, linesmen and even some spectators, but some of the fire seems to have gone out of John McEnroe.

And unless he can rekindle it, it appears unlikely that he will ever regain the world's number one ranking.

That, in essence, was the prevailing opinion by many tennis insiders in the aftermath of McEnroe's stunning defeat by unheralded Brad Gilbert in the opening round of the Masters tennis championships Wednesday night.

Even McEnroe concedes that, all of a sudden, everything seems to have gone wrong. Perhaps most significantly, he is having difficulty concentrating during a match, McEnroe said following his 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 loss to Gilbert.

The day after McEnroe's defeat was the talk of the Masters tournament which, during its first two days, has lost its two biggest attractions — McEnroe and Jimmy Connors, who withdrew on opening day because of the flu.

The 33-year-old Connors was given virtually no chance of winning the tournament, but McEnroe had been expected to meet top-seeded and world number one Ivan Lendl in Sunday's final for the third year in a row.

In fact, McEnroe did not play badly against Gilbert, the world's 18th-ranked player, who in McEnroe's words "played the match of his life" in scoring perhaps the biggest upset in the 16-year his-

tory of the tournament.

But where in the past he has raised his game to its highest level when he trailed, McEnroe seemed to lack desire and showed little aggressiveness during the climactic third set.

Though he won 71 of 79 matches on the Grand Prix circuit last year — a year-long performance overshadowed only by Lendl's 80-7 mark — McEnroe failed to win a Grand Slam tournament.

Late in the year he admitted he was having trouble with his concentration, perhaps the most important element among the world's best players.

McEnroe has attributed some of his concentration lapses to the publicity over his romance with actress Tatum O'Neal, whom he is due to marry next month, and to the impending birth of their child.

And he has conceded that his private life now takes precedence over his tennis, which was not the case when he held the number one ranking.

A daunting task awaits west Ham

LONDON (R) — West Ham, who have been challenging in the top six of the English first division since November, will face the most severe test of their title aspirations to date when they play at Liverpool on Saturday.

After surviving a difficult period at the turn of the year, during which London rivals Tottenham ended their 18-match unbeaten run, the Hammers have recovered to hang on to fifth position in the table and they currently boast the best defensive away record in the first division.

In 13 trips to their opponents' grounds, West Ham have con-

ceded only 11 goals, winning six and drawing four of their matches.

But Liverpool, whose form has fluctuated from the sublime to the ordinary in recent weeks, are sure to give the greatly-improved West Ham defence a thorough examination at Anfield, particularly as the partnership between strikers Ian Rush and Paul Walsh has blossomed into one of the most dangerous in the league.

Both Rush and Walsh have been scoring with impressive freedom: recently and even West Ham's own star marksman Scottish international Frank McAvennie has been eclipsed by the

Liverpool duo's exploits.

History will offer West Ham little comfort as they seek their first win at Liverpool since the 1963-1964 season when Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters scored in a 2-1 victory.

They have not scored at Anfield since drawing 2-2 in 1975-76 and their last five visits have ended in defeats, including a 6-0 thrashing in 1983-84.

Fourth-placed Chelsea visit Birmingham's City rivals and fellow-strugglers West Bromwich Albion, who are rooted to the foot of the table after only two wins all season. Their form, however, is better than their results and they may be capable of restricting the ambitious Londoners to a draw.

WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN INVITATION TO BID CONTRACT No. 5/86/M1 ZARKA-RUSSEIFA WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT

Water Authority of Jordan invites experienced contractors to submit bids for the supply and installation of about 30 km of sewers line ranging in diameter from 150 mm. to 500 mm.

Contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified as general, first and second class water and sewerage and general and first roads and buildings are invited to submit bids.

Eligible foreign contractors under Islamic Development Bank (IDB)'s code shall submit an envelope including financial and technical data about the firms as well as technical capabilities. These data will be used for qualification, and bidders will be informed whether to submit a bid or not. Eligible foreign contractors are encouraged to associate with local contractors.

The qualification data envelopes are due no later than 28/1/1986.

A prebid conference will be held on 28/1/1986, at 9:00 a.m. Jordan local time in the Water Authority main office in Amman.

Bids are due no later than 18/2/1986 at 12:00 noon Jordan local time, and should be delivered to Water Authority main office in Amman.

Copies of the tender document are available at:

Water Authority, Nabulus St. Jabal Al - Hussein
P.O. Box (2412) Amman - Jordan
Tel. 666111 Tlx. 22439 WAJ JO

The cost of each copy of the tender document is JD 150 non-refundable.

Eng. M.S. Kilani
President
Water Authority

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Foreign journalist departing Amman leaves north city's best flats: 4th Circle roof flat, sunny, good view, with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sitting room, dining room, modern kitchen, giant terrace, telephone.
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All are centrally heated
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- Two bedrooms, living/dining room K&B.

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6:30 - Midnight

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(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



Cinema
RAINBOW
Tel: 625155

COMMANDO
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema
AL-HUSSEIN
Tel: 622112

END GAME
(Colour)

Performances: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:00

★ Cine - Theatres
Philadelphi
Tel: 634144 - 634149

CLOSED AND SHORTLY WILL BE REOPENED

Performances: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:00

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198

HERO
(Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema
OPERA
Abdullah bin Ali cinema
Tel: 675573

BANNED IN GIRLS' SCHOOLS
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4355/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.4015/20	Canadian dollars
	2.4660/70	West German marks
	2.7770/80	Dutch guilders
	2.0915/20	Swiss francs
	50.30/35	Belgian francs
	7.5600/50	French francs
	1679/1680	Italian lire
	202.40/50	Japanese yen
	7.6290/6340	Spanish crowns
	7.5985/6035	Norwegian crowns
	9.0325/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	358.00/359.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed higher but turnover was moderate as operators tended to wait until the conclusion of the G-5 meeting this weekend, dealers said. They added buying interest was selective, mainly confined to special situation stocks. At 1550 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 1.5 up at 1396.0.

Banks were particularly firm on seasonal demand which left Lloyd's 20p up at 492. Industrials and golds were mixed, in left insurance brokers were higher.

Government bonds showed gains ranging to 1/2 point and North American stocks were mixed.

Government bonds edged up generally by 12 1/2 pence for most dates.

Among leading industrials, Reed International was up 10 pence at 569 pence, Turner and Newall gained 8 to 126 and De la Rue was up 10 at 745.

Major oils continued to decline as the price of spot crude fell. Shell was 19 lower at 661 and B.P. was down 5 at 546.

Three other major banks posted considerable gains. Barclays rose 13 at 467, Midland 12 at 449 and National Westminster 17 at 704.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 18, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening when you would be wise to concentrate upon the practical aspects of your existence, to find out just where you stand in your assets and obligations.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study the new practical enterprise you have started and be sure of the benefits you are to get from it.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get yourself in right hands and feel your appearance and health improved today and feel aced by the time evening rolls around.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Plan just how to make your ambitions come true, particularly in private life. Get tasks handled that can deter your progress.

MOONCHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get at those private matters that can give you the feeling of well being and that bring in a wonderful adventure.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Early get into the outside world and handle important matters well. Some favor for a big win can bring added benefits to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have some new plan which is fine but need more data to work out the details of it nicely.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An enterprise that means much to you can be improved with the aid of one who has the right information.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can now discuss details with a partner and reach a better accord if you are both broad-minded.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Keep that promise you have made in a calm and precise way now, and please all concerned.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make the preparations now for the amusements ahead with congenials and then all works out well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't allow an outside problem to disturb the equanimity at home, but plan quietly just how to solve it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make sure that your car is in good running order and that you drive carefully today. Recklessness could bring you much trouble.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be very capable at whatever has to do with business or money. Give as fine a business course as you can and send to the best schools. Your progeny will be very magnetic but teach to use this quality in the right way.

OECD urges U.S. to correct imbalances

PARIS (R) — The United States must act urgently to correct imbalances in its economy if industrial nations are to continue steady growth, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Thursday.

The OECD said the U.S. economic recovery, while distinctly slower than 1983 and 1984 levels, would continue with annual growth of 2 1/2 to three per cent over the next 18 months and a low risk of renewed inflation or further or further unemployment.

The figures in the OECD's annual economic review are well below the four per cent 1986 GNP (Gross National Product) growth rate predicted by Washington.

In 1985, the OECD put U.S. growth at 2 1/2 per cent.

But the review said the large current account and federal budget deficits, as well as the weakness of U.S. exports and the possibility of higher interest rates if the dollar fell sharply, have all created important imbalances.

"In view of the interdependence of the world economy, they pose serious challenges for policy both in the United States and abroad," the report said.

But it stressed U.S. action would be most likely to succeed if other countries did more to help build a coherent set of economic policies.

The large U.S. budget deficit remained the primary target but the OECD cautioned that spending cuts agreed by Congress last August might not have enough effect as they were based on optimistic administration growth projections.

It also warned that possible tax cuts as a result of the administration-backed tax overhaul plan could hinder the deficit reduction package.

Fuelled by lower international investment, the U.S. current account deficit is expected to deteriorate further to nearly \$150 billion this year.

This may be helped by a gradual depreciation of the dollar through concerted action by the ministers from the Group of Five (G-5) industrial countries.

Britain plans to privatise major airports

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government is planning to sell Britain's major airports to the private sector for an expected £500 million (£715 million).

The government plans to sell seven airports as part of its policy of denationalising public businesses. Included will be London's Heathrow, the world's busiest international airport. The sale of the British Airports Authority, which runs the airports, could take place next year, the department of transport said. Each airport would be run as a separate company. The bill also paves the way for the privatisation of 16 airports owned by local authorities in England and Wales. They are likely to include Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester airports.

The finance ministry said the surplus for December alone was a monthly record of \$6.64 billion. The large imbalances piled up despite efforts during the last three months of 1985 to cut back Japan's competitive advantage by forcing up the international value of the yen.

Preliminary figures for the trade surplus with the United States showed yet another record of \$39.51 billion, up 19.4 per cent from 1984.

Final figures are expected to put the surplus even higher, officials said, with the U.S.-Japan trade gap likely to approach \$50 billion.

The latest figures are likely to stimulate renewed demands within the U.S. Congress for mea-

asures to keep out Japanese goods.

These demands had abated in recent months as the rise in value of the yen promised to put a long-term brake on Japanese exports.

Thursday's preliminary customs-cleared figures included the costs of insuring and transporting Japan's imports. In the final tally these will be deducted, making the import figure lower and the surplus higher.

The Japanese export figure for December was one more record, up 12.3 per cent to \$17.93 billion. Imports for the month fell 0.3 per cent to \$11.28 billion.

The 1985 export total also was a record, up 3.3 per cent to \$175 billion. However, this was the lowest annual rise in three years.

Total imports fell 5.1 per cent against 1984 to reach \$129.5 billion.

Japan's biggest export item was vehicles. Sales were up 24.8 per

cent to \$19.25 billion. Office equipment was the second biggest seller but this fell 5.3 per cent to \$4.1 billion. Video cassette recorders came third with sales of \$3.98 billion, up 12.6 per cent over the previous year.

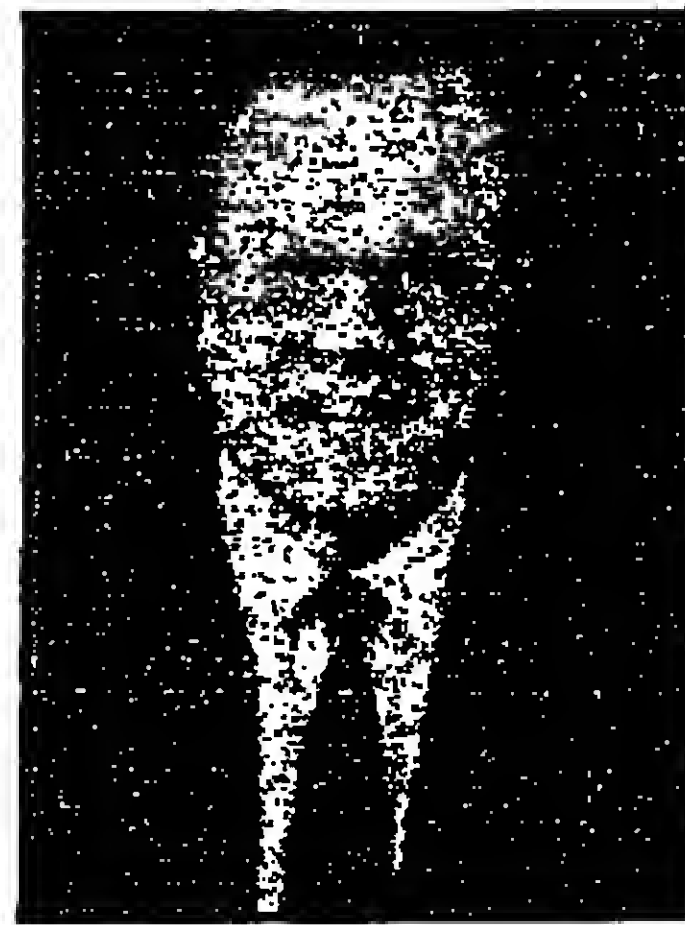
Meanwhile, European Commission President Jacques Delors will fly to Tokyo on Monday with a clear message — Japan must take concrete steps to boost its imports or risk restrictions on its exports to the European Community (EC).

EC officials said Mr. Delors would tell Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone that although Japan was increasing its imports from the rest of the world, its exports were rising at an even faster rate. Exports to the EC rose by a 22.6 per cent in December alone.

Mr. Delors will argue that faced with an escalating deficit, the 12-nation group would find it hard



Noboru Takeshita



Martin Bangemann



James Baker



Pierre Bergeyov

to be a coordinated interest rate reduction exercise." The remark depressed U.S. stock and bond markets and helped underpin a weak dollar.

The sources said it was possible the London meeting would debate whether to coordinate interest reductions when the timing was right.

Japanese Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita appeared to hint at this when he said he hoped to see an "accord of perception" towards an easing of credit conditions emerge from the meeting.

Mr. Takeshita said on leaving Tokyo for London that an easing of credit conditions will be a topic at the meeting.

French Finance Minister Pierre Bergeyov made a similar assertion in Paris.

Lower interest rates in the major industrial nations would help spur economic growth and provide welcome relief to hard-pressed debtor nations whose debt servicing bills are determined by international interest rate levels.

Reduced rates would provide support to Mr. Baker's plan to shore up the international debt situation. Mr. Bangemann said Mr. Baker had told him in their talks early this week that lower rates would be a "decisive contribution to the indebted countries."

Japan is anxious to lower its interest rates but does not want to weaken the yen as a result. Accordingly, it feels it can only cut

interest rates in step with its main economic partners, the sources said.

A weaker yen has been fuelling a massive Japanese trade surplus with the United States, and no-one wants to see the yen fall again, cheapening Japanese exports to America.

Accordingly, the sources said Japan wants to be certain that if it reduces its interest rates, the move will not have the effect of weakening the yen. Such an outcome would result from an isolated interest-rate cut, analysts said.

In Britain, there appears to be no scope at all for cutting interest rates, which were raised just last week and may be on the verge of going even higher. The increase was an attempt to protect the pound sterling as the price of oil, a major export earner for Britain, declines.

Mr. Bangemann told reporters here that West Germany was already stimulating its economy through fiscal measures and did not feel the time was necessarily right for interest-rate cuts.

In the United States, even though Mr. Baker seems in favour of a discussion on interest rates, the

timing may not be right for the independent central bank, the Federal Reserve Board (Fed), to reduce them.

Fed Chairman Paul Volcker, who will attend the London meeting, is known to believe that deep budget deficit reductions must take place before he can afford to cut the Fed's discount rate.

Gold prices soared on strong demand from Middle East

Amid these developments, gold prices soared to the highest level in 19 months in fast-moving dealings in New York and on European bullion markets Thursday, fuelled by rumours of a mystery buyer and a possible fall in world interest rates.

The surge in demand, mainly from the Middle East, later moderated but some dealers said a further boost in precious metals could be in the cards, possibly taking gold to \$400 an ounce. It reached \$377 in Zurich Thursday.

The rush into gold was sparked by reports of a mystery buyer, possibly the Sultan of Brunei, and by signs that finance ministers of leading industrial nations will consider coordinated cuts in interest rates.

Dealers said the rumours centred mainly on the Sultan of Brunei, reputed to be the world's richest man with a portfolio estimated at some \$35 billion.

According to the reports, he wants to purchase \$5 billion worth

of gold, or about 14 million ounces.

Spearheaded by huge gains of almost \$30 an ounce on the London and Zurich markets, the price of gold on New York's commodity exchange Thursday jumped as much as \$18.80 an ounce to its highest level since April 1984.

Gold for delivery in February rose to \$369.50 from Wednesday's close of \$350.70, but then fell back to \$357.60.

The buying enthusiasm spilled over into other precious metals markets, with silver gaining 20 cents an ounce and platinum rising \$14 an ounce.

However, U.S. analysts said Middle Eastern investors were prominent buyers of gold Thursday in continental Europe and London, setting the stage for a substantial rally in New York as demand overseas spilled into the U.S. market.

They said Middle East traders appeared to be reducing and, perhaps, flattening positions in currency markets on the prospect that lower rates could follow.

The dollar-rich Arab traders were combing the world for a place to park their money and gold appeared to be as good a place as any, one precious metals analyst said.

European traders spoke the aggressive short covering, mainly by Middle Eastern buyers worried by the fighting in South Yemen and tension between Libya and the United States.

Japanese trade surplus hits new record

TOKYO (R) — Japan's trade surplus hit a record in 1985, with preliminary figures issued Thursday showing a \$46.14 billion gap between exports and imports.

The finance ministry said the surplus for December alone was a monthly record of \$6.64 billion.

The large imbalances piled up despite efforts during the last three months of 1985 to cut back Japan's competitive advantage by forcing up the international value of the yen.

Preliminary figures for the trade surplus with the United States showed yet another record of \$39.51 billion, up 19.4 per cent from 1984.

Final figures are expected to put the surplus even higher, officials said, with the U.S.-Japan trade gap likely to approach \$50 billion.

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asures to keep out Japanese goods.

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Meanwhile, European Commission President Jacques Delors will fly to Tokyo on Monday with a clear message — Japan must take concrete steps to boost its imports or risk restrictions on its exports to the European Community (EC).

EC officials said Mr. Delors would tell Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone that although Japan was increasing its imports from the rest of the world, its exports were rising at an even faster rate. Exports to the EC rose by a 22.6 per cent in December alone.

Mr. Delors will argue that faced with an escalating deficit, the 12-nation group would find it hard

to continue resisting demands for protectionist measures against cars, electronic equipment, chemicals and other Japanese goods flooding the EC.

The Tokyo figures showed the EC's trade deficit with Japan up by \$1.1 billion in 1985 to a record \$11.1 billion. EC figures for 1985 have yet to be published but its calculation of the deficit is normally some \$2 billion higher because it uses a different base.

Japan's exports to the EC rose four fold in the nine years to 1984 when they totalled some \$22 billion.

One EC official said that although Mr. Delors would not be entering detailed negotiations with Mr. Nakasone and his ministers, "he needs to bring back with him a positive signal that Japan is prepared to speed up its import programme."

China gives top key posts to youth

PEKING (R) — China has replaced nearly all the top managers of 3,000 key state firms as part of a major shake-up to phase out ageing cadres with younger, better educated and more competent people, the China Daily said Friday.

It said 90 per cent of those holding top positions in the companies, which produce nearly half the nation's industrial output, had been replaced in two massive clean-outs ordered by the government since 1982. It did not say which industries were involved.

The paper said the average age of the new managers was 46.6 years, with nearly 90 per cent having a college education. The new people warmly support the economic reform programme masterminded by top leader, Mr. Deng Xiaoping.

THE Daily Crossword by Roger H. Courtney

ACROSS

1. Last's done
2. Many of baseball
3. Racket star
4. Flynn
5. Science
6. South Korean president
7. Left wing
8. On the "Flare"
9. Lawyer-actor
10. Cupid
11. Mischief
12. Come back in
13. Flamingo's dance
14. Physicians' leaders
15. Pleasure
16. Prepared in a way
17. Skiff
18. Legislator
19. Perspective
20. Chinese galaxy
21. George C.
22. Point of land
23. Polar movie
24. Ladies' wear
25. Songs by Ferrante and Teicher
26. Malign
27. Clothing edge
28. Peter of films
29. Marshy estate
30. Corded
31. London
32. Fortifying
33. Orderly
34. Vocal plea
35. Sundry
36. Unmanned part
37. Moral collapse
38. Do well
39. Pen type
40. Assurance
41. Talent
42. Ocean
43. Absorbed
44. Strangely
45. Sp. region
46. Deletion minus
47. Put in hiding

DOWN

1. Down
2. Of a grain
3. My city
4. Unpleasant
5. Sorry
6. Cigar and
7. Foot type
8. Wind deposit
9. Eng. river

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOMSS

EUQUE

TAUMER

DEXOUS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RUSTY SWASH AVENUE LEDGER

Answer: A political platform is something a candidate needs when he hasn't — A LEG TO STAND ON

Marcos said to own investments worth \$250 million in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — A congressional subcommittee has mounting evidence that Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda own at least \$250 million in U.S. real estate investments, a panel spokesman said.

The evidence came in a report on the Marcos property holdings by the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Sub-committee Chairman Stephen Solarz said in a television interview later: "I personally have absolutely no doubt whatsoever that the president and the first lady of the Philippines have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in real estate in New York City and to some extent elsewhere throughout the country."

Mr. Solarz added: "I think that Mr. and Mrs. Marcos are now in the world class of corrupt national leaders."

David Frank, a spokesman for the subcommittee, told Reuters the panel had uncovered "mounting evidence" that the Marcoses own at least \$250 million in U.S. real estate, including four New York City properties and an estate on nearby Long Island.

The Marcos have repeatedly denied allegations that they own property in the United States.

Mr. Frank said panel investigators had found that Manila banker Rolando Gapud, said to handle the Marcoses' personal finances, played a key role in acquiring the property.

He said the panel had issued a subpoena for Mr. Gapud but it had not been served because he

was believed to be back in the Philippines.

The subcommittee plans to hold two public hearings next week to take testimony from as many as eight more witnesses whom Mr. Frank declined to identify, in its probe into the Marcoses' investments in the United States.

The panel has issued about 20 subpoenas, subcommittee sources said.

In Manila, a nephew of Mrs. Marcos resigned from the Philippine foreign service on Friday and pledged support for Corason Aquino in the Feb. 7 presidential election, accusing President E. Marcos of bungling the economy.

Norberto Romualdez III told a news conference he was quitting as commercial councillor of the Philippine embassy in Brussels, Belgium, and as director of the trade centre of the Association of South-East Asian Nations in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said he had not heard of the resignation of Mr. Romualdez, the second official to quit a foreign post in two weeks. Leticia Ramos Shabani, a cousin of Mr. Marcos and United Nations deputy secretary-general, resigned Jan. 6 after government criticism of her support for Mrs. Aquino.

Mr. Marcos campaigned Thursday in Pangasinan province,

north of Manila, where he bled slightly from one hand after being scratched by crowds, according to a nurse who attended to the president.

The presidential palace had no word on Mr. Marcos' bleeding, but the government television station reported on Friday that he must have sustained scratches while mingling with his supporters.

A palace spokesman said "this often happens" when Mr. Marcos or his wife appear at public functions such as the one on Thursday in Dagupan, 160 kilometres northeast of Manila.

Mr. Marcos was treated for the scratches inside a cubicle on the stage at the Dagupan rally and then delivered his speech during which he also apologised to his audience for having a croaky voice.

"Don't worry," the 68-year-old president said. "I have a cold."

Eyewitnesses said Mr. Marcos was being carried to the stage, as in triumph, by presidential aides and security men when a woman dashed forward and tried to seize his right hand, on which there was already a sticking plaster just below the fingers.

He winced as if in pain and his son, Ferdinand Marcos Junior, called to the aides: "Bring him down, bring him down."

But they carried the president to the stage where he waved to the crowd and then ducked into the cubicle with a nurse. Who he reappeared a few moments later, he had additional plaster on his forearm.

U.S. lines up alternate to bases in Philippines

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has won a preliminary agreement that could turn a tiny group of Pacific islands into a major U.S. military base if it loses the two key bases it now maintains in the Philippines.

The contingency accord signed last Friday with Palau, a U.S. trust territory in the West Pacific with a population of about 12,000, was not publicised in the United States.

But a copy obtained by Reuters shows it would complete leases and agreements for a U.S. fallback to an arc of Pacific islands used by the Japanese in World War II, which already include Guam and the Northern Marianas, if Washington lost Subic Bay naval base and Clark air base in the Philippines.

The accord would permit construction of a 16 hectare U.S. naval base in Palau's Malakal harbour and a 26.5 hectare air base in return for more than \$300 million in U.S. aid.

Palau, which consists of 200 islands and islets with a land area of

about 500 square kilometres, is currently negotiating with Washington for self-governing status.

Although U.S. officials have said they are confident the United States will not be thrown out of the Philippines, the Senate Intelligence Committee has said the government there could be overthrown by rebels in three years if major problems facing the country were not solved.

A compromise in the new agreement would prohibit U.S. use, testing, storage or disposal of nuclear weapons in Palau but allow the United States to operate nuclear-capable ships and planes there without confirming or denying whether they in fact were nuclear armed.

The United States has already leased more than 8,000 hectares for possible bases on Saipan, a 122-square kilometre island, and its smaller neighbour, Tinian, site of seven World War II airfields in the Northern Marianas islands, another U.S.-associated territory.

Mine kills 2 soldiers in latest Tamil attack

COLOMBO (R) — Two soldiers were killed and three others injured on Friday when a guerrilla landmine exploded in Sri Lanka's eastern province, the Defence Ministry said.

A spokesman said the landmine blew up under a military vehicle. No other details were available.

The National Security Ministry said on Thursday it had declared a 1,000-metre security zone around the main military base in the northern town of Jaffna and other camps in the northern province.

The statement followed mortar attacks last Tuesday and again on Thursday on Jaffna fort by guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state.

The ministry said three rebels were killed and several injured in a gunfight with troops on Thursday after the attack.

Newspapers reported on Friday that three civilians were killed and 15 more wounded in the same incident but defence officials were unable to confirm civilian casualties.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathumudali was quoted by the state-owned Observer as saying he believed the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) was responsible for a bomb explosion in Colombo on Thursday.

A policeman and a civilian were injured in the blast at a busy shopping centre, officials said. EROS, one of several guerrilla groups fighting in northern and eastern areas, has claimed responsibility for previous explosions in Colombo.

Rains delay shuttle landing for 2nd day

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Rain in Florida forced officials of the U.S. space agency to postpone the scheduled landing on Friday of the delay-plagued shuttle for the second day running.

Low cloud and rain over Kennedy Space Centre closed on the shuttle runway, and officials decided to keep the space craft in orbit for another 24 hours before attempting a third landing in Cape Canaveral on Saturday.

They decided against diverting the shuttle with its seven-member crew to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

The shuttle, which had a record seven postponements before lifting-off on Sunday, was due to land on Thursday but rain had forced postponement of the landing. The shuttle has enough fuel to keep flying until Sunday.

Officials of the space agency said they were encouraged by Columbia's performance, which included the successful launching of an RCA communications satellite on the first day.

But they acknowledged disappointment with the problems that arose in performing materials processing experiments because of equipment failures.

In addition, the crew's attempts to photograph Halley's Comet were hampered by a problem with a special camera.

Judicial panel recommends freedom for jailed Shagari

LAGOS (R) — A special judicial panel has recommended the release from detention of former Nigerian President Shehu Shagari and his deputy Alex Ekwueme.

"We recommend that the subject should be released from detention and that the release be given urgent consideration," the panel chairman, Justice Samson Uwaifo, said in each of his rulings.

The two have been held without charge since General Mohammad Buhari overthrew their government, Nigeria's last civilian administration, two years ago.

Gen. Buhari was himself toppled last August by Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, who freed many detainees and set up the panel to review cases of those still held.

Lawyers said the release of Mr. Shagari and Mr. Ekwueme may

France, Britain agree on project across channel

PARIS (AP) — French and British transport ministers agreed early on Friday on a single project to realise the 180-year-old dream of a fixed transport link across the English Channel, but details were being kept secret, French officials indicated.

"We have a clear impression they settled on one project" from the three still in consideration — a rail tunnel, road and rail tunnels, and a road bridge-tunnel combination, said an official close to the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But there may be government pressure on the winning scheme to bring in the losers as partners "to improve the project," indicating the plans could be further modified, the official said.

Meetings involving British Transport Minister Nicholas Ridley,

his French counterpart Jean Auroux and their officials ended at 3 a.m.

Their experts met again later Friday to "finalise details of the draft joint statement" to be made on Monday by President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the northern French city of Lille, the official said.

France had favoured a rail tunnel while Mrs. Thatcher was said to support the possibility of driving non-stop between Britain and France, but support swung between the various projects at various times.

The official said it was possible the governments' agreement could include "pressure that the losers be associated with the winning team to improve the project."

South Africa and Lesotho begin talks on blockade

PRETORIA (Agencies) — South African and Lesotho officials began talks on Friday seeking a solution to a dispute which has led to a crippling blockade of Lesotho, a tiny kingdom encircled by South African territory.

Lesotho's Cabinet Secretary P. Raseloa and South African Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General N. van Heerden met in Pretoria after Pretoria demanded talks on alleged infiltration of black guerrillas from Lesotho.

The latest crisis between the two countries has led to South Africa imposing tough restrictions since the new year at border crossing points, causing a shortage of essential supplies in Lesotho.

Pretoria has said the control of cross-border traffic is necessary to stop African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas launching attacks from Lesotho in their campaign against white rule in South Africa.

On Thursday, Lesotho accused South Africa's state-run media of creating speculation of an at-

tempted military coup in Lesotho. About 100 soldiers in personnel carriers and jeep surrounded Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's office in Maseru for several hours on Wednesday, according to eyewitnesses.

The soldiers left the area after Mr. Jonathan and senior parliamentary forces officers went to the nearby royal palace for talks with Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe, diplomatic sources said.

"This speculation that has arisen, the blame can be put squarely on the shoulders of the South African Broadcasting Corporation," Information Minister Desmond Sticksie told reporters.

In Pretoria, a spokesman for the South African Broadcasting Corporation said one of its TV crews was expelled from Lesotho on Thursday after Mr. Sticksie objected to a question put to him during an interview.

The Lesotho government said the troops at the prime minister's office on Wednesday were investigating a bomb scare.

Sikh leader shot in London

LONDON (R) — A prominent member of Britain's Sikh community has been shot and wounded in London and police sources said the act was being investigated as a possible political assassination attempt.

A police spokesman said Sangtar Singh Sandhu, injured in the right eye and ear, was in stable condition in hospital.

Mr. Sandhu, a member of the moderate Sikh Akali Dal Party which heads the government of India's troubled Punjab state, was hit by gunfire coming from bushes near his house Thursday night as he returned from work, the spokesman said.

Wu says no improvement in Sino-Soviet political ties

PEKING (R) — The political relationship between China and the Soviet Union has not fundamentally improved despite much more economic and trade exchanges, China's Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian said Friday.

The New China News Agency reported Mr. Wu as saying in a report on China's diplomacy in 1985 that Peking sincerely wished to establish good neighbourly relations with Moscow.

If the Soviet side is really sincere in improving relations, it should take action to remove the "three major obstacles" instead of dodging the question, he said.

"It should stop supporting Vietnam in its invasion of Kampuchea and urge the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea," he said.

The other two "obstacles" are the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and what Peking sees as Soviet troop concentrations on the Chinese border.

A Western diplomat said China had been irritated by Soviet statements that political relations between the two countries were improving. "The three obstacles concern China's national security and cannot be lightly set aside," he said.

The three men are all wanted for their part in the Paris-ordered bombing of the former Greyness protest flagship Rainbow Warrior last July 10 in which one crew member was killed.

Two officers in the DGSE are currently serving 10-year jail terms in New Zealand for the sabotage operation.

Auckland police spokesman Maurice Whitman told reporters a detailed prosecution case against the three was being completed in case any or all of them ever left France and could be extradited.

"We have to be in a position where we can commence extradition proceedings at a moment's notice," he added.

Whitman said New Zealand police had no idea where the men were.

New Zealand issued international murder and sabotage warrants against Chief Petty Officer Roland Verge and Petty Officers Gerald Andries and Jean-Michel Bartelot soon after the Rainbow Warrior was blown up and sunk at its Auckland harbour mooring, drowning crew member Fernando Pereira.

The agents were identified in an official French inquiry into the operation, which New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange called "sordid act of international state-backed terrorism."

French law protects its citizens from extradition and Paris has said the three would not be tried in France because they were acting under orders.

The three men sailed to New Zealand on the yacht Orvea which was later scuttled somewhere in the South Pacific. They later reappeared to present themselves to French police in Paris but were not detained.

French opposition unveils radical programme

PARIS (R) — France's right-wing opposition has unveiled a radical programme of measures to curb the role of the state and abolish economic controls if it wins power in a general election on March 16.

Jacques Chirac and Jean Lecanuet, leaders of the Gaullist RPR and the centre-right UDF, presented a 29-page list of measures on Thursday, agreed after more than six months of tough backstage negotiations.

The most far-reaching promises include a return to the private sector of leading state-owned banks, insurance and industrial companies, abolition of exchange and price controls and a virtual end of public broadcasting.

Opinion polls show the right poised to win an absolute majority in the National Assembly, but the opposition is divided over whether it should "cohabit" with President Francois Mitterrand or seek to make him resign.

"This programme is the only one which can permit the recovery of our country," Mr. Chirac said. "The French must give us a large

and solid majority next March. If that is the case, we will not shirk our responsibilities."

Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, visiting alicase to drum up votes for the ruling socialists, denounced the opposition programme for "seeking above all to demolish."

He said the opposition's economic proposals would lead to an increase of 70 billion francs (\$8 billion) in the budget deficit, which would relaunch inflation.

The programme said the French economy had lost half a million jobs since 1981 because of the Socialists' "sectarianism and incompetence."

It set the goal of an economic growth rate "equal or superior to that of our European partners" in order to restore employment.

The two parties also promised a return without delay to majority voting system instead of the proportional system introduced by Mr. Mitterrand for this year's elections.

The programme promised immediate abolition of France's extensive system of price controls.

New Zealand prepares case against three French agents

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand police said on Friday they were completing documentation for the possible extradition of three French secret service (DGSE) agents despite admitting there was virtually no prospect of the men standing trial.

The three men are all wanted for their part in the Paris-ordered bombing of the former Greyness protest flagship Rainbow Warrior last July 10 in which one crew member was killed.

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Court rejects attempted murder charges against New York 'subway vigilante'

NEW YORK (R) — A U.S. judge on Thursday dismissed attempted murder charges against Bernhard Goetz, who became a hero to some New Yorkers and a monster to others for shooting four black youths on an underground train in 1984.

But in his ruling, which cited technical errors in the prosecution's case and possible perjury by two of the youths, Judge Stephen Crane gave the prosecution the option of submitting the attempted murder charges to a new grand jury.

Prosecutors also have two other options: they can appeal his ruling or simply try the so-called "subway vigilante" on lesser illegal gun and reckless endangerment charges.

Those charges were not affected by Judge Crane's decision, but defence lawyers long have expressed confidence that they could successfully argue against them in a courtroom.

Prosecutors said they were still studying the decision, but Mr. Goetz and his lawyers were buoyant.

Mr. Goetz smiled and waved to reporters as he entered a law office, shouting: "I never thought it would come this fast." Lawyer Barry Slotnick, urged prosecutors "to end this man's long nightmare."

Mr. Goetz, 38, a bachelor who runs his own electronics repair business in Manhattan's Greenwich village, burst into world headlines on Dec. 22, 1984, when he pulled a small silver handgun and opened fire, hitting two of the young men in the back. One remains paralysed in a hospital.

Mr. Goetz said he acted in self-defence, saying the youths were harassing him and had demanded \$5.

He was at first hailed as a hero by New Yorkers fed up with street crime and, in January, the first grand jury to hear the evidence and decide whether it merited trial, threw out the attempted murder charges, indicating him only on the weapons and endangerment counts.

But public sentiment soon began a turnaround, with civil rights

leaders and social commentators leading the chorus of protest. Their fury mounted as Mr. Goetz began demanding changes in the gun laws in a series of public appearances.

In March prosecutors submitted the case to a second grand jury, which returned the attempted murder indictment dismissed by Judge Crane on Thursday.

Mr. Crane backed arguments by Mr. Goetz' lawyers that prosecutors improperly explained the law on self-defence. He termed it "a possibly prejudicial error."

He also questioned the March testimony of two of the victims. "If that testimony, going to the heart of justification was perjured, as it strongly appears to have been, the integrity of the second grand jury was severely undermined to say the least," he said.

In the last month, two of the youths have admitted to reporters that they had intended to rob Mr. Goetz, contradicting what they told police at the time. In the 13 months since the incident, three of the wounded youths have been arrested for various street crimes.

ANC leader pledges to protect rights of whites in S. Africa

HARARE (R) — The African National Congress (ANC) will protect the democratic rights of whites in South Africa under majority rule, ANC leader Oliver Tambo has said.

In an interview in Lusaka with Zimbabwe's Herald newspaper, Mr. Tambo said his movement was fighting to create a united South Africa that catered for all its people regardless of colour.

"Once they (whites) come to accept that South Africa must be ruled by its people together, as citizens of equal worth... then they will understand that their rights in a democratic, non-racial South Africa will be protected just like the rights of every other single citizen of the country," he added.

Mr. Tambo, whose ANC is pledged to overthrowing Pretoria's white-dominated government, said his movement would not give whites special constitutional rights if it came to power.

"When we get majority rule — and that is now in sight — we will be ruling the country together as South Africans, not as blacks or whites."

"The main thing is to get away from the notion that whites are foreigners in South Africa or that Africans are primitive and must always be under white rule," he added.

In Johannesburg, police said on Friday one man was killed and six were injured in fresh outbreaks of anti-government violence around South Africa overnight.

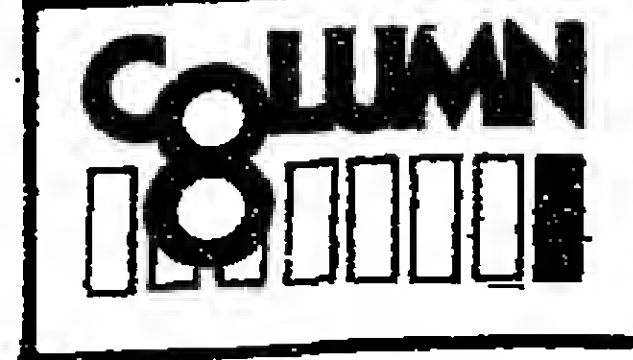
Anti-apartheid protesters killed one man and another was injured in serious unrest in a black township near Pearson in the eastern Cape, police headquarters in Pretoria said.

Police used tear gas and shotgun fire to disperse the crowd after it petrol-bombed the house and car of a former councillor. Seventeen arrests were made.

Councillors, regarded by many blacks as collaborators with the white-dominated government, have been the target of attacks in the racial violence that has swept South Africa since February 1984. More than 1,050 people have died in the unrest.

In another incident in the township, two black men were seriously injured when a mob stoned a house, police said.

Two men were wounded when police used tear gas and shotgun fire to disperse a stone-throwing crowd at a calm line near Witbank in the Transvaal, police said.



Indian pilot thrown off own plane

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian Airlines pilot who made an unscheduled stop to eject an argumentative passenger found himself taken off the plane by annoyed airline officials. Indian newspapers reported. The pilot of the Bombay-Delhi flight on India's domestic carrier on Wednesday returned unexpectedly to Bombay, apparently to eject a passenger who had aggressively complained about a 40-minute take-off delay. The Statesman newspaper said. But after the plane landed at Bombay, other passengers blamed the pilot and after what the newspaper described as "ugly scenes," the plane took off again for Delhi three hours later with a different pilot. The newspaper said the delay caused an unidentified film star to miss a connecting flight and almost miss his own wedding.

Human remains found inside crocodile

BRISBANE (R) — Human bones, toenails and fingernails spilled out of the stomach of a giant crocodile when it was cut open after being killed in northern Australia, police said. They said the remains inside the five-metre-long manatee were probably those of a woman who disappeared last month near Cairns while wading in a creek to cool off after a party. The disappearance of 43-year-old Beryl Wruck led to a Queensland state government decision this week to move all crocodiles from rivers and streams in the area around Cairns to crocodile farms.

Walt Disney regains magic touch

NEW YORK (R) — Walt Disney seems to be recovering its touch. On Thursday the company reported the best quarterly earnings in its history. For years the firm that charmed the world with such creations as Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Bambi, created wonder with everything it did — from its amusement parks to fantastic and delightful films. Then the entertainment giant lost some of its magic. Its films remained geared toward a pre-adolescent audience — no sex, ever — but the mouseketeer generation had moved on. In 1984 it fought off two costly takeover attempts. On Thursday Walt Disney productions surprised Wall Street by reporting its best first-quarter earnings ever — \$34.7 million compared with \$32.2 million last year. Sales in the quarter ended December 31 were up 18 per cent to \$504.2 million from \$426.5 million.

Man-eater stalks Indian tea estate

NEW DELHI (R) — A man-eating tiger and two wild elephants have killed five people in West Bengal state in the past 10 days, the Press Trust of India said Friday. The animals triggered panic among workers at several tea estates in Dooars district, the agency said. The Royal Bengal tiger mauled two men to death while a pair of elephants trampled a mother and daughter and a plantation worker.

Chinese brothers run across country

PEKING (R) — Two brothers have run the length of China from north to south, covering 6,600 kilometres in 136 days, the New China News Agency said Friday. It said the Yan brothers, aged 26 and 28, started from Mohe, China's most northerly village, on Sept. 1 last year and ran an average of 42 kilometres a day to reach a village in Hainan Island off the south coast. Their sister rode a bicycle beside them the whole way, providing necessary supplies, it added.

Californians litter with creativity

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — Government officials said on Thursday taxpayers last year paid a record \$10 million picking up a wild boar's head, discarded dentures and other trash from California's roadsides. Among the other odd items picked up along highways: a life-sized paper mache rhinoceros, packages of illegal drugs, a U.S. navy depth charge, sides of beef, a human finger and an "endless variety of rubber versions of human organs," an official said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KQ83 ♣ KQ753 ♦ 8 ♠ A62
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♦ Dble Pass 2 ♦
Pass Pass 2 ♦ Pass
Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q755 ♦ 8 ♠ QJ9862 ♠ A6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass 1 ♣ Dble Pass
?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ Q ♣ AKQJ1042 ♦ K7 ♠ Q32
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass ?
What is your opening bid?
- Q.4 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 9 ♣ AQ2 ♦ 873 ♠ AKQ1076
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 NT Pass
?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ J5 ♣ AQ104 ♠ AQJ ♠ AQ109
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ 1 ♦ Pass 2 ♦
Dble 3 ♦ Pass 2 ♦
?
What action do you take?
- Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q1065 ♦ 8 ♠ A1092 ♠ 8764
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 2